THE SECRET LETTERS AND NEGOTIATIONS OF THE MARESCHAL D'ESTRADES, MONSIEUR COLBERT, AND THE COUNT D'AVAUX;

The *French* King's Plenipotentiary-Ambaſſadors in the Treaty of

NIMEGUEN.

Together with His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's and Monſieur *de Pomponne*'s Anſwers and Inſtructions.

VOL. IV.

LONDON:
Printed for *J. Morphew* near *Stationers*-Hall, and *J. Woodward* in St. *Chriſtopher*'s Church-Yard, behind the *Royal-Exchange*.

M. DCC. X.

LETTERS
AND
NEGOTIATIONS
OF THE MARESCHAL
D'ESTRADES,
MONSIEUR
COLBERT,
AND HIS PREDECESSOR
D'AVAUX,
The French King's Plenipotentiary
And Ambassador to the Treaty of
NIMEGUEN.
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The SECRET LETTERS AND NEGOTIATIONS Of the MARESCHAL D'ESTRADES, &c.

VOL. IV.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *July* 30. 1677.

SIRE,

The Abſence of Monſieur *Beverning*, obliges us to ſuſpend the Execution of the Orders Your Majeſty gives us by your Letter of the 22d, which we receiv'd Yeſterday, touching the manner where-

in we are to explain ourſelves for the future upon all the Articles of the Demands of the *States-General*; but by a clear Conference we had with Sir *Lionel Jenkins* the 25th inſtant, whereof we have given an Account to Monſieur *de Pomponne*, Your Majeſty may ſee, that we have anticipated Your Intentions, and done all that lay in our Power, upon the Advice of Monſieur *Courtin*, to undeceive the King of *England*, and his Miniſters, of the bad Impreſſions made in that Court, by the Extent, which Sir *William Temple* maliciouſly, as we believe, and Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, thro' Inadvertency, have given our Anſwers, even to Things which have not been demanded hitherto, nor put into the Negotiation. 'Tis true, Sire, that forasmuch as the Propoſals of the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General* commence from the 13th Article of the Treaty of 1662, and Your Majeſty by the Inſtructions You have given us, did not find any Difficulty upon the firſt, as is uſual in all Treaties, and moreover Monſieur *Courtin* gave us to underſtand, that the King of *England* only perceiv'd Himſelf prejudic'd by the Stipulation of a Guaranty of Fiſhery, and of a defenſive League with ſome offenſive Engagement, which begins at the 4th Article of the Treaty of 1662, and ends at the 12th, we were not excluded from our Anſwers by the clear Conference we had with Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, as to the 13th, which makes the firſt of the Demands of the ſaid *States-General*; and the rather, becauſe they paſs from the 13th to the 16th, without inſerting the 14th and 15th of the Treaty of 1662, which ſtill make mention of thoſe Leagues defenſive and Guaranty; but we told him, that we would confine ourſelves to the Terms which we had made uſe of; namely, that Your Majeſty might agree upon all the Articles of the Treaty of 1662, which regulate Commerce and Navigation between

between Your Subjects and thoſe of the *United-Provinces*; and we told him alſo, that if in any of thoſe which were propos'd to us, there is any one thing which he thinks may prejudice the King of *Great-Britain*, or His Subjects, we did not doubt, but if he would pleaſe to tell us thereof, Your Majeſty would order us to amend it by our Replies, ſo as that there ſhould be left no grounds for His *Britannick* Majeſty to complain.

The ſaid Notice Your Majeſty gives us of the bad Effects produc'd in *England*, by the Rumour ſpread abroad there of a private Treaty on foot between You and *Holland*, makes us believe, that 'tis not for your Service, to ſhew any Earneſtneſs, at the Return of Monſieur *Beverning*, to entertain him and his Collegue with Your Majeſty's Sentiments upon their Demands; the rather, becauſe thereby we ſhould only confirm to them what we have already told them ſeveral times, by Your Orders. So that we believe, 'tis better to defer making uſe of the Inſtructions Your Majeſty gives us, upon the Pretenſions of the *States-General*, till thoſe Ambaſſadors make us new Inſtances, to tell them what they ought to expect therefrom.

Thoſe which the Allies make to us at preſent, by the Mediation of the Nuncio, in favour of Prince *Charles*, will appear very unreaſonable to Your Majeſty, and we may even ſay ridiculous, in regard that they would know our Anſwers before they give us the Demand of that Prince; and the Nuncio who begins to make appear therein his Inclination for the Emperor, gave us to underſtand, that if after we have kept for ſome time the Writing which was preſented us on the part of Prince *Charles*, we content ourſelves to ſay, that it is not in the Form as it ought to be, without promiſing that ſo ſoon as it is amended by the Miniſter whom he has here, we would give our Anſwers

thereto, and that we do not expect freſh Orders from Your Majeſty; there will be reaſon to ſay, that we only ſeek Pretences of Delay; but we gave him to underſtand, that the ſole reading of Prince *Charles*'s Writing, ſo contrary to the preſent Poſture of Affairs, ſufficiently vindicates the Reaſons which we have, not to anſwer it; and that when his Envoy ſhall make his Demand in the Form which has been always obſerv'd in this Aſſembly, and in the preceding ones, it will be incumbent upon us then to declare what we have to do in the Sequel. If Your Majeſty thinks it will conduce to your Service, as we believe, to retard that particular Negotiation, the Emperor's Ambaſſadors give us a very fair Pretence for ſo doing, by the Refuſal they make to acknowledge the Envoy of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, urging that that Prince being neither an Enemy of the Emperor, nor the Empire, he ought to apply only to the *Imperial* Court, or the Diet of *Ratisbon*, if he has any Demand to make; but foraſmuch as every Prince of the Empire has Power to make Alliances with the neighbouring Princes, and whereas Your Majeſty has caus'd the ſaid Right to be confirm'd to them by the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*, and ſeeing you are willing to acknowledge the Biſhop of *Strasburg* for your Ally, no Perſon can think it ſtrange, that You ſhould order us to refuſe all the Viſits of the Miniſters of Prince *Charles*, and all the Propoſals on their part, till the Emperor's Ambaſſadors acknowledge the Sieur *Duker* as Envoy of a Prince, who has the Honour to be in the Alliance, and under the Protection of Your Majeſty. We ſhall not, nevertheleſs, make uſe of this Method which we have notified to You, unleſs You approve it. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LET-

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *July* 30. 1677.

SIR,

SUch a languiſhing Negotiation as is at preſent that of *Nimeguen*, does not furniſh us with Affairs of any Importance to write to the King. However, we are farther oblig'd to add to His Majeſty's Diſpatch our moſt humble Intreaty, that you would inform us of his Intentions as to the Earneſtneſs which the Nuncio ſhew'd ſome time ago to mediate a Correſpondence of Viſits between the Emperor's Ambaſſadors and us. The Occaſion which he told us he would take for it, was the Arrival of the Biſhop of *Gurk*, who is expected here in four or five Days, and he deſigns to diſpoſe him to notifie his Arrival in Conjunction with his Collegues, one of whom having not yet caus'd his Domeſticks to take up their Livery, may, ſays he, be look'd upon as having continu'd *Incognito*. There was more Difficulty with reſpect to Monſieur *Strasman*, but the Nuncio believ'd that the Body of the Emperor's Embaſſy, the Moment that it is perfected by the Arrival of the Chief, ſending to make us a Compliment, and meeting together at the Houſe of the ſaid Biſhop, in order to receive our Viſit all together, that they might alſo viſit us in a Body at the Houſe of the firſt of us, immediately after the Mediators; we could not deſire a greater Reparation of the Errors

which ſome of the ſaid Ambaſſadors might have committed at their Arrival; and that by this means the latter would fully ſatisfie the Honours due to the Embaſſy of *France*. Neither does it appear to us, Sir, that this Expedient can in any wiſe prejudice our Character, but the Auditor having certify'd us two Days ago, that Count *Kinsky* would not agree to any Propoſal, unleſs he was viſited in particular, before the Arrival of his firſt Collegue, and having perſuaded us that certain particular Declarations or rather Compliments made us on his part, by the Mediators, might ſpoil every thing that he has done more notable and publick, we thought it our Duty entirely to reject that Negotiation; and all that we have to do, is to know whether the Nuncio, leaving the Emperor's Ambaſſadors at liberty to viſit thoſe of *Spain*, without Rank, as kindred of their Maſter, and diſpoſing the former to give us a Viſit in the Body of the Embaſſy, immediately after the Mediators, His Majeſty approves that we ſhall accept this Propoſal, which ſeems to us to be the only one thing allowable.

Sir, we annex to this Letter the Report which Monſieur *Duker* has given us in Writing of the Anſwer the Mediators made to his Demands on the part of the Emperor's Ambaſſadors; and we will not diſcourſe on this Affair, till you have notified to us, Sir, after what manner the King would have us carry ourſelves therein. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *Auguſt* 3. 1677.

SIR,

WE know not how to inform you better of the Reaſons which the Nuncio gives for not bringing back to us the two Briefs of His Holineſs amended, than by ſending you the Memorial thereof, which contains them, with the Copies of thoſe which he ſays were diſpatch'd according to the Order and Practice of the Secretary's Office Apoſtolical, as well to the Duke *de Longueville*, and the Chiefs of the Embaſſies of the Empire and *Spain* at *Munſter*, as to the Biſhop of *Gurk*, and the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, who fill up the ſaid Places here, according to the Form of which Cuſtom he pretends that that which was ſent to me the Mareſchal *d' Eſtrades*, was diſpatched as well with the Direction to, as the Titles of the Gentlemen my Colleagues.

As for the other Diſpenſation, the moſt conſiderable one, wherein the King is not ſpecially nam'd after the Emperor, nor diſtinguiſh'd from other Kings, we are not ſatisfied with the Nuncio's Arguments; becauſe, beſides that we have not found them unanſwerable, and particularly his not bringing to us the ſaid Diſpenſation which the Nuncio *Chiſi* ought to have had at *Munſter*, ſince he copies out thoſe diſpatched for the Counts *Trautmandorf* and *Pegnerandi*, and for the Duke *de Longueville*, we have ſought out on our part what

may ſerve to maintain that Title which makes for His Majeſty's Glory, and advantageouſly diſtinguiſhes it from other Kings, till you have ſuggeſted to us on your part, whether His Majeſty deſires it, in order to keep up that Prerogative, which you know better than we. We have already found that *Fra Paolo* an Author who is not judg'd Partial for *France*, in his Hiſtory of the Council of *Trent*, Printed at *Geneva*, *Lib.* 1. *Pag.* 104. reports even as the Nuncio agrees in his Memorial, that *Paul* III. in his Bull of Convocation of the Council at *Mantua*, in 1541. names the Moſt Chriſtian King particularly after the Emperor, and tho', *Julius* III. does not formally name him in his Letter for continuing the ſaid Council in 1560. yet it was done implicitly in Terms Equivalent to a Denomination, namely, in ordering by his Bull, that that of *Paul* ſhould continue in full Force and Vertue with all the Clauſes and Decrees therein contain'd, which he confirm'd and renew'd as far as was neceſſary, (ſee *Lib.* 3. *Pag.* 316. of the aboveſaid Author) ſo that it may be ſaid *Julius* has equally nam'd the King after the Emperor, as well as *Paul*, which fully contradicts what the Nuncio alledges in his Memorial, that *Julius* III. did not nominate His Majeſty; and tho' *Pius* IV. did not name *Francis* II. after the Emperor in his Bull, for a new Convocation in 1560. yet *Charles* IX. caus'd complaints to be made thereof by his Ambaſſadors to that Pope, which were inſtead of Proteſtations, and are related at large, by the ſaid Hiſtorian of the Council of *Trent*, *Lib.* 5. *Pag.* 445, 951, 52, 53, and 54. wherein *Pius* IV. only vindicated himſelf by the Excuſe of having forgotten it, and left the Care of his Bull to the Cardinals, by him appointed Deputies therein; that he could not mind every thing; that he very frequently let things ſlip; but that

for the future, he would uſe the utmoſt Di[illegible] to the end that nothing might be omitted: [illegible] it may ſtill be ſaid, that this Title of Diſtinction of the King has been acknowledg'd and authoriz'd by all the Popes; and we do not think, that the Decree of the Confirmation of the Council of *Trent*, by that ſame *Pius* IV. in the Year 1564. deſerves any Contradiction, becauſe it is a particular Act ſince the Council was ended, which no one can confute on the part of the King, and much leſs what the Nuncio alledges in his Memorial upon the Term of two Crowns, cited by *Victorio Siri*, which has no Relation to the Matter. And, Sir, when we ask'd the Nuncio, how it came to paſs, that he ſhew'd us the Copies of the Briefs which he pretends to have made uſe of at *Munſter*, and that he did not communicate to us that Diſpenſation of the Nuncio *Chiſi*, which might very much add to a clear Intelligence of Affairs, he knew not how to make us any other Anſwer, except that he himſelf was ſurpriz'd, that it was not ſent him with the others, and that he believ'd it lay upon the Table of the Secretary who would ſend it by the next Poſt.

Sir, we expect to hear your Intentions as to what may be done in this Affair, and the Mediums that may be found out therein, if His Holineſs ſhould not think it proper to enter upon this Debate, which we may ſay is particular and private between the Nuncio and us, the *Germans*, *Spaniards*, and others having no Knowledge thereof.

Sir, in all Appearance, you will be as much ſurpriz'd as we have been, at what the Nuncio and Sir *Lionel Jenkins* came Yeſterday to tell us ſeparately, *viz.* The Nuncio that the Allies would ſee that Prince *Charles*'s Envoy ſhould give us his Propoſal in the Form we deſire it, which would be, in Subſtance, the ſame that was preſented and ſign'd

by Prince *Charles*, whenever we please to assure that Minister, what time we will answer him Categorically, and without Delay, the said Nuncio desiring us to vouchsafe to give him an Answer thereupon, and assuring us, that this facile Method would as much serve to advance the Treaty of Peace, as a Delay might confound it. And Sir *Lionel Jenkins* told us the very same thing in Substance, and added others to it very chimerical; and ask'd, by what time we would return an Answer? and that the Advancement of Peace depended on it, without which the Allies would proceed no farther therein, and had propos'd to declare to us, that the Delay which we should make in answering the Proposals of Prince *Charles*, would be an Obstruction to the general Peace, since they would not advance one Step farther, till we had return'd our Answer.

Sir, we reply'd to both of those Mediators, That tho' that Demand was extraordinary, and contrary to every thing that has been practised hitherto, yet we would accept the Proposals that Prince *Charles* should give in by them, when they were conformable, and examine and answer them in such time and manner, as we should think most convenient; and added to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, that he might tell the Allies, that since they declared to us, the Treaty of Peace could not go forward, but in conjunction with the Affairs of *Lorrain*, they acknowledg'd then, that they had delay'd all *Europe* that Happiness for above a Year since they made us any Demand for Prince *Charles*.

Sir *Lionel Jenkins* desired us also, on the part of the Allies, to write to the King, to obtain a Passport for the two Deputies Administrators of the Lands of the Diocese of *Strasburg*, to capacitate them to come and represent their Privileges in the Assembly? But we made Answer, That

Monſieur *Duker* was here, by vertue of their Paſports, on the part of the Biſhop and Prince of *Strasburg*, their Sovereign, who has the Care of the Intereſts of his Maſter, and his Dioceſe; that we did not know nor acknowledge other Deputies, nor would we write to his Majeſty for the Paſport which he deſired of us.

We believe this Demand was made us only with the Thought that we ſhould refuſe it; and that our Enemies will form a Pretence, on that Occaſion, to refuſe, as they have already done, to acknowledge Monſieur *Duker*; but if his Majeſty gives us Orders accordingly as we have taken the Liberty to remonſtrate to him, to put a Stop to the Affairs of *Lorrain*, till the Envoy of the Biſhop of *Strasburg* is acknowledg'd, thoſe Gentlemen will find themſelves very ſhort in their Meaſures. We are, *&c.*

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing of our Letter, the Nuncio brought us the Propoſals hereto annex'd, of Prince *Charles* Envoy, and told us, at the ſame time, by way of Diſcourſe only, that he hop'd ſhortly to bring us new Propoſals from all the Allies, and that Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, in ſpeaking to us of the Delay, whereby we obſtructed the general Negotiation, when we did not anſwer the Propoſals of *Lorrain*, talk'd but very ridiculouſly, ſince the Allies might have advanced, but in things on which they would not inſiſt.

Sir, we believ'd we might add hereto a Thought which is come into our Heads, touching the Brief which was directed hither to me the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades*. Since the greateſt Difficulty occurs in the ſole Term of *Præſtantibus Viris*, which the King

does not think ſuitable to Perſons whom his Majeſty has honour'd with the Character of his Ambaſſadors; and we can ſcarce believe, that thoſe who were at *Munſter* receiv'd that which is ſhewn us at this time; that, perhaps, they would amend it, if we inſiſt to demand; it but that, however, we ought not to admit of it yet, till the Emperor's Ambaſſadors have accepted theirs; for it may happen, that Count *Kinsky* will cauſe it to be amended, and that the King may thereby ſuffer a Prejudice in the Difference there would be then between the Treatment which would be ſhewn to his Ambaſſadors, and that which would be manifeſted to thoſe of Emperor. We are, *&c.*

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors,

Dated *Auguſt* 5. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; I anſwer your Letters of the 23d and 27th *ult.* The former ſhews me after what manner the Ambaſſador of *Spain*'s Viſit to thoſe of the Emperor has been regulated by the Interpoſition of his Holineſs's Nuncio. Nothing can be a plainer Demonſtration that the ſame is without Rank, and paid only to Miniſters of one and the ſame Royal Family, than that they did not begin by the Pope's Nuncio, whoſe Preheminence is eſtabliſh'd, without all Diſpute, above all others. Therefore I think it convenient, that you ſhould content yourſelves to be viſited immediately after the Nuncio, and the *Engliſh* Ambaſſadors. In

th:

the one, a natural Precedency, and the Quality of a Mediator, are equally join'd; in the other, the Rank which is given to the Mediation, ſets no Precedent. But altho' this Affair cannot be more clearly compounded, and I therein find all the Precaution, indeed, which I can deſire, 'tis proper, nevertheleſs, that you ſhould get a Copy of the Writing which the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* are to give the Pope's Nuncio, whereby they declare, that they will ſee thoſe of the Emperor without Rank, in the Viſit they are to pay them. Let that which you are to keep, remain, by this means, in the Condition wherein it always ought to be, ſince thoſe Expedients, and that Writing, are a kind of Acknowledgment thereof, even by the Ambaſſador of *Spain*.

You fully obſerved my Intentions, when, without entring into the Remonſtrances of the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, upon the State of their Maſters Affairs, you renew'd to them the Aſſurances of my Amity, and confirm'd the Orders which you have, to deſire the ſame of them, and the entire Re-eſtabliſhment of the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*; but beſides that, the News from *Denmark* agrees, that the Loſs of the *Swediſh* Fleet is far leſs than was at firſt publiſh'd. I impatiently expect the Confirmation of the former Report, which was ſpread abroad of a Battle gain'd by the *Swedes* in *Schonen*. If it be true, I hope the Affairs of that Crown may recover in that Province, and thoſe of the Empire.

I have obſerved with as much Satisfaction as Indignation, in your Diſpatch of the 27th, the Doubt which Sir *William Temple* rais'd concerning you, and the manner after which you clear'd it. It can't be ſufficiently admir'd, how that Miniſter durſt impoſe thus upon the King his Maſter, in a Matter ſo important; and how he could

charge

charge you with the entire renewing of the Treaty of 1662, in all its Points. As much Fault as I ſhould have found with your declaring yourſelves after that manner, with ſo much Pleaſure I perceive, that you have kept ſo exactly to my Intentions, and that you have ſo nicely ſeparated the Articles of Guaranty and Alliance, from thoſe belonging to the Sea and Commerce, which are the only Articles in queſtion. I have charged Monſieur *Courtin* to complain thereof to the King of *England*, becauſe while Sir *William Temple* diſcovers ſuch an Averſion to me, it may be dangerous to defer it longer, leſt he ſhould have Notice of the juſt Diſpleaſure with which I reſent his Carriage. The Succeſs that I expect from the Orders I have given to the Sieur *Courtin*, is, that the King of *England* will deprive him of the Truſt in a Mediation, which, 'tis plain, he performs with Partiality. For what remains, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Verſailles, *the* 5*th of* Auguſt, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *Auguſt* 5. 1677.

Gentlemen,

YOU have very nicely clear'd the wrong Conſtruction put upon you by Sir *William Temple.* I obſerv'd it with great Joy, and rejoice with myſelf for having always ſuſpected that this Affair was different at *Nimeguen*, from what was diſcours'd at *London.* 'Tis ſad to ſee the Mediation in ſuch Hands; but it is the part of Prudence, not to make too much Noiſe about it, while the King of *England* is willing to continue him therein.

Your Anſwer to the Mediators, upon the Writing ſign'd by Prince *Charles*, cannot be better; the ſame has been alſo approved by his Majeſty.

The King's Army, and that of the Emperor, are ſtill very near, and were even in ſight of each other the 20th *ult.* The *Imperialiſts* have diſcover'd no Mind to fight, and are march'd ſince towards *Marville.* The Mareſchal *de Crequi* is ſtill very much incommoded with his Wound, which has been open'd; and in caſe that he ſhould be out of a Capacity to ſerve, his Majeſty has left it to him to put the Army under the Command of the Mareſchal *de Schomberg.*

Foraſmuch as the Prince of *Orange* has paſs'd the *Dender*, it does not appear what Deſign he can have in View, unleſs it be the Siege of *Maeſtricht*,

ſtricht, or that of *Charleroy*: Both, nevertheleſs, appear very difficult Enterprizes; not only from the Condition of the Places, but from the Danger of acting in ſight of an Army ſo powerful as that under the Command of the Duke of *Luxemburg*. I am, Gentlemen, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *Auguſt* 6. 1677.

SIRE,

YOUR Majeſty ſaw, by our foregoing Diſpatches, that we entirely ſatisfied the Tenour of yours of the 29th *ult.* which relates to the Diſturbance occaſion'd in the *Engliſh* Court by the bad Intelligence that has been ſpread about there, that we were treating with the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*, in order to ſet on foot again the entire Treaty of 1662; and we cannot enough wonder that Sir *William Temple* ſhould give this Intelligence, ſince 'tis not to be believ'd, but that he read the Memorials which were given him by the ſaid Ambaſſadors of *Holland*, in order to deliver them to us, wherein no Mention is made, nor even in the Anſwers we return'd to him, but of the Navigation and Commerce, and none at all of the Articles of a Defenſive Alliance, or of a Guaranty, which have rais'd this Alarm in *England*. And, Sire, we ſhall add farther, at this time, to your Majeſty, for the better clearing of this Truth, that 'tis alſo impoſſible, we could enter into any thing of the like nature, for an unanſwerable

anſwerable Reaſon of Fact, which Sir *William Temple* was not ignorant of, namely, becauſe Monſieur *Beverning*, when we told him, that your Majeſty would be contented to renew the Treaty, as to Things which related to Navigation and Commerce, from the 13th Article, explain'd himſelf, and clearly declared to us, that it could not be better at that time, and that 'twas requiſite that his Maſters ſhould enter again into the Honour of your Majeſty's Amity, by a Treaty, before they talk of renewing an Alliance, and making you any Propoſal of Guaranty, or of Alliance, and that, therefore, 'twas proper to think nothing at preſent, but of regulating the Affairs of Commerce and Peace.

Your Majeſty has alſo ſeen, by our former Diſpatches, that we have ſatisfied the other Point of the ſaid Diſpatch of the 29th *ult.* touching Prince *William*, and caus'd the Mediators to make the Inſtances you commanded us for his Liberty; which have produced the Anſwers from the *Imperialiſts*, whereof we have given you an Account. We will continue, Sire, the ſame Inſtances with the ſaid Mediators, at Opportunities, according as your Majeſty ſhall order us.

The Day before yeſterday, we viſited the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors in Rank, and according to the Methods which were formed and concerted by the Nuncio; who caus'd them to be executed very juſtly, according to the Engagements and Promiſes which he had given us thereof, after they and the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor had made on each ſide, their Viſits, of Conſanguinity, the day before, in Imitation of the Example of *Munſter*, whereof the Nuncio gave us his Certificate, with a Writing ſign'd by him for the better Security; a Copy of which we ſend to Monſieur *de Pomponne*, whom we inform of every thing that

is

is transacted here, because we would not trouble your Majesty therewith. We are, with a most profound Respect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated *August* 6. 1677.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd the Letter which you did us the Honour to write to us of the 29th *ult.* which came along with the King's Letter of the same Date. You may perceive, by the Answer which we gave ourselves the Honour to return to the King, that we refer his Majesty to the Particulars we are to give you, of what happen'd in the Visit which we paid the day before yesterday, to the Ambassadors of *Spain*, after the Nuncio and Sir *Lionel Jenkins* had deliver'd to us in the Morning a Full Power, in due Form, for all, with the Title of Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries, and all necessary Clauses. We hope, Sir, that you will find our Visit to his Majesty's Satisfaction, since we have imitated the Example of *Munster*, and obtain'd a Certificate thereof from the Nuncio, with another Writing for the greater Security, whereof we send you the Copies. And whereas at *Munster* the King's Ambassadors had only the Nuncio for an Example, we had here the Nuncio and the Mediation of *England* for Guides. What we are to tell you, was not done without Difficulty, with regard to

the Mediation of *England*; for the Nuncio took his Meaſures between the *Spaniards* and us, but not between the *Engliſh*, with whom he has no Correſpondence; inſomuch that after the Declaration of the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, there aroſe two great Propoſitions; the firſt, to conform to the Example of *Munſter*, Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, who is a Perſon, as you know, of little Reſolution; and the other, that in caſe he conforms thereto, to cauſe him to go to the Audience after the Nuncio. Both were no ſmall Work.

We perceiv'd him at firſt in a Paſſion, inſomuch that he ſaid, he would not accept of any Medium; that he would give and receive the firſt Viſit as a Mediator, before the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, and before the Nuncio; and that that Viſit was due to him: That he did not acknowledge the Pope; and that he had Orders from the King his Maſter, not to yield to his Nuncio; and we ſaw him, with Diſpleaſure, make his Offer, for that, to ſolicite the Ambaſſadors and Miniſters of the Proteſtant Princes, to ſide with him to maintain it; and we ſaw him, in a manner, come to us, only to declare his Reſolution to us. But, Sir, we were fortunate enough to render him capable to conform himſelf to the Example of *Munſter*, with reſpect to the Viſit of Conſanguinity between the Emperor's Ambaſſadors and thoſe of *Spain*, which was the firſt Difficulty; and we endeavour'd afterwards to perſuade him, by our Reaſons, both to be ignorant of the Nuncio's Viſit, and to return his, tho' after the time which ſhould be given him as Mediator, before us. We repreſented to him, that the Matter in hand, was not for him to yield to the Nuncio, but that he ought to enter upon the Buſineſs of a true Mediator: That he knew with what Joy we made uſe of the Mediation of *England*, and in

what

what Eſteem it was with the King; but that he was not alſo ignorant, that the Pope was, in like manner, admitted a Mediator by the Catholick Princes, who all acknowledging him for Head of the Church, would yield to him, Kings, Emperors, and others: That foraſmuch as he had juſt before conformed himſelf to the Example of *Munſter*, and not inſiſted upon the Viſit of Conſanguinity, which the *Imperial* and *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors paid the day before, which was a thing done; for a Certificate which they were to give him of what occurr'd therein, we deſir'd him alſo to follow the ſame Example, as for the reſt; that there was nothing in it of the Rank of the King his Maſter, ſince we only deſired Audience after him the Mediator; to whom it being, at length, given, foraſmuch as we thought only to execute and make the Viſits in this Order, according to the Hours which were ſet us, we luckily prevented an Accident which, in all Appearance, would have more irritated *England*, than the Affair of the Treaty of 1662; which was, that the Marq. *de los Balbaſes*, Chief of the *Spaniſh* Embaſſy, at whoſe Houſe the Viſits were paid, gave us an Hour between the Nuncio and Sir *Lionel Jenkins*; which being diſcover'd, we made Complaints thereof to the Nuncio, who endeavour'd, by going ſeveral times backwarks and forwards, to ſet all things to rights. We inform'd Sir *Lionel Jenkins* thereof; we made way for him, in the Hour which was appointed for us, and took his, for which the whole was performed in the concerted Order; but not without a great deal of Suſpicion, on our part, that this was a Snare which the *Spaniards* deſign'd to lay for us, under a falſe Appearance of doing us more Honour, in order to confound the Viſits, and to ſet us and the *Engliſh* Ambaſſadors together by the Ears, by giving

ving out, that we would have intercepted them, which Sir *Lionel Jenkins* knew as well as we, who continues very well pleas'd therewith, and came to us, to give every one of us Thanks in particular.

We are perſuaded, Sir, you will find that we have not the ſame Cauſe to make uſe of the Nicety of Count *Oxenſtiern*, who becauſe he would not make his Viſit after us, made Anſwer to the Gentlemen who notified their Maſters Arrival to him, that he was going for four or five Days into the Fields. This is already the ſecond time that he has dealt juſt ſo, when his Buſineſs was to go to an Audience after us; and what appear'd to us more amazing, is, that he does not deal thus with reſpect to others; and we have obſerv'd, while he treats in that manner with us, he makes no Scruple to follow, in the like Caſe, the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, when Opportunity ſerves. Theſe are certain Obſervations which we did not think we ought to omit notifying to you.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing of our Letter, the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* gave us a Viſit, immediately after thoſe of the Mediators.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *Auguſt* 10. 1677.

SIR,

WE gave ourſelves the Honour to inform you, by the laſt Poſt, how our Viſits paſs'd with the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*. We are now to give you an Account of the Propoſals which the Nuncio has made us, in order to bring us to an Interview with the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor. You know, Sir, the Reaſons of the Complaints we have againſt both of the two who are here; that with regard to Count *Kinsky*, he has not notified his Arrival to us, upon the Difficulty which he has made as to a Note, whereby he was to aſſure the Mediators, that the Viſits which were made him by the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, and others, were only given him as Viſits of Friends, and without any Notification on his part. As to Monſieur *Straatman*, we complain, for that he did not give us Notice of his Arrival time enough; that he conceal'd from us the Audiences he gave to other Ambaſſadors before us, under Colour of having Buſineſs of Moment to treat about, and becauſe he would only return us the laſt.

The Nuncio, therefore, propoſes to us, Sir, that when the Biſhop of *Gurk* arrives, he will reeſtabliſh things here in the Order as they ought to be, that he may receive from us, and repay us the ſame Viſit in the Body of the Embaſſy, and that

that he may return it to us in like manner. The Nuncio aims, by this means, to have the Errour of thoſe two Gentlemen advantageouſly repair'd; ſince the Chief of the Embaſſy would not only render us our Due, but alſo the whole Body of the Embaſſy would come and make us the firſt Viſit; in which the Reparation would be ſo much the more great and publick, ſince 'tis manifeſt, that all the World plainly ſees, that Count *Kinsky* and Monſ. *Straatman* would not meet at the Biſhop of *Gurk*'s Houſe, thoſe who have already receiv'd their Viſits ſeparately, and a long time before, if it was not in Favour of *France*, and to give her the Precedency which is due to her. We were alſo apprehenſive, leſt the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* and *Denmark*, who would find it out, ſhould refuſe to pay that Viſit to the entire Body of the Emperor's Embaſſy, urging, that they have already diſcharged themſelves of that Duty towards Count *Kinsky* and Monſieur *Straatman*; but the Nuncio's Auditor aſſures us, the Biſhop of *Gurk* has declared, that he has Orders from the Emperor to receive the Viſits in a Body of the Embaſſy with his Collegues: That the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, in order to facilitate this Accommodation, promiſes to go and viſit them all three in a Body, and to receive the Viſits of all three in a Body, tho' he has already done it to the two laſt: That the Nuncio propoſes to do the ſame, and that the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* and *Denmark* will not preſume, perhaps, to refuſe that Offer, for fear of bringing themſelves under the Reſentment of the Emperor, and excluding themſelves alſo from all manner of Correſpondence with the Biſhop of *Gurk*, whom the Nuncio hopes to induce to declare, that without his Collegues he will not receive that firſt Viſit. Beſides this publick Reparation, they will make us ſtill other particular

ones. As to Count *Kinsky*, 'tis propos'd to us to meet him for that purpose, at the House of the Marquis *de los Balbases*, whither he goes to divert himself once a Week: That thereby we shall get some Insight into the Difficulties which hinder'd us from our seeing him, and that he would signifie to us, how he had made no Notification before that which he offer'd us: That there had been only a Misunderstanding, and that we were the first to whom he would give Notice of his Arrival. Forasmuch as this Discourse was properly of the Excuses which he would make to us, we should more willingly yield to it, if it was only design'd that those Compliments on both sides should work about a Visit which we would go and make him, without Ceremony, and in private, before we visit him in Ceremony with the Bishop of *Gurk*. This, Sir, is what we entirely rejected. We declared, that we could not go to visit Count *Kinsky*, who had not notified his Arrival to us, till we had seen him in Ceremony at the Bishop of *Gurk*'s House; that to go thither to him, would be to pass after those who had already seen him; that, therefore, it was requisite that the first Visits of Ceremony should be made according to the Rules, after which, we would make no Scruple to see him familiarly, and without Ceremony. Those Gentlemen pretend, on the contrary, that that Visit can be of no Effect, since it may be made without Ceremony, as between private Persons. They agree also, that no more than one of us should go thither to see him, under pretence of holding a Conference at the House of the Marquis *de los Balbases*; and Count *Kinsky* pretends, he cannot receive the first Visit at the House of the Bishop of *Gurk*, because neither of us did him the least Honour, nor saw him at his House, as we had done to others. That if we lay the Blame upon

upon his not giving us Notice of his Arrival, he can ſay, that he offer'd it to us, and that it was only incumbent upon us to receive it; and that, therefore, it may be preſuppoſed that this firſt Viſit was given on both ſides.

As for Monſieur *Straatman*, foraſmuch as we are a little more offended with his Procedure, they do not only deſire of us no Viſit, nor no particular Conference, but moreover 'tis agreed, that he ſhould tell the Nuncio, he had done all he could to render us what was our Due; that his Domeſticks had Orders to give us Notice before others, but that things were not managed as he concerted them; that the Nuncio ſhould give us that Declaration in Writing, becauſe Monſieur *Straatman* would not write it with his own Hand; or rather, that the Nuncio ſhould do another thing better than that Declaration, namely, a verbal Proceſs of every thing that has happen'd upon account of that firſt Viſit with the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, wherein he ſhould declare every thing that Monſieur *Straatman* told him, and notify, that that Viſit in the Body of the Embaſſy, was made only for us to render the Rank and Precedency due to us, more authentick.

Foraſmuch as we did not agree with any thing herein, and contented ourſelves with giving ear to the Nuncio, things remain in that Poſture, and we wait, Sir, till the King ſends us his Orders, which of theſe Propoſitions his Majeſty pleaſes to accept. We preſume alſo, Sir, to intreat you to do us the Honour to give us an Anſwer without tarrying till the next Poſt-day, becauſe we ſhall have it four days ſooner: And ſince the Biſhop of *Gurk* will be here this day, it may, perhaps, be as much as the Nuncio can do to cauſe him to defer the Notification of his Arrival, till the King's Anſwer, which, nevertheleſs, we did not ſay we expected, having not been willing hi-

therto to trouble ourſelves with an Affair which was refer'd to Negotiation.

Sir, we cannot tell you, in caſe this Affair is not accommodated, whether we ſhall ſee the Biſhop of *Gurk*; indeed, we are all ready to do it, but the Marq. *de los Balbaſes* has given us to underſtand, that he can ſcarce believe that Miniſter will reſolve to ſee us, when his two Collegues are excluded from all manner of Correſpondence with us. It may be, he ſaid this, to cauſe us to yield the more eaſily to the Expedients he propoſes, and perhaps 'tis alſo true.

We have already obſerved, Sir, that the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* were a little too obſtinate upon the firſt Rank, and principally with relation to us, ſince thoſe who made no Scruple, on two Opportunities, to go and viſit the Emperor's Ambaſſadors after that of *Denmark*, would never make uſe of that Occaſion to paſs after us. At the time of the Arrival of the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, Count *Oxenſtiern* feign'd himſelf indiſpoſed, and did not go to ſee him till five days after; he ſought out Pretences with my Lord *Berkley*, and upon this Occaſion of the Ambaſſador of *Spain*, he got into his Coach, juſt as he had Notice of his Arrival, and ſaid, that he was going for four Days into the Fields. But at his Return, he made a very expreſs Declaration; for he caus'd Complaints to be made to the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, becauſe he gave us Notice of his Arrival before them. To whom the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* made anſwer, That he had done what he thought proper; that he was not to give an Account of his Actions to any body, and that they were at their own Choice to come and ſee him when they would, or not to ſee him. We were inform'd of this laſt Particular by the Nuncio's Auditor. We give ourſelves the Honour,

Sir,

Sir, to ſend you the Anſwer of the Allies, which Sir *Lionel Jenkins* gave to Monſieur *Duker*. You may perceive therein very plain Conjectures. This is what we ſhall give Sir *Lionel Jenkins* to underſtand, in the Audience which we ſhall deſire of him to-morrow, when we ſhall tell him ſomething unanſwerable, which is, that not only we declar'd, a little while ago, that the Biſhop of *Straſburg* was an Ally of the King; but that at the time when the Buſineſs was to agree about the Form of the Full Powers, when the Ambaſſadors of the *States* inſiſted, that in ours we had Power only to treat for his Majeſty, we rejected that laſt Condition *at preſent in War*; and the Biſhop of *Strasburg* was the only Example we brought of an Ally to his Majeſty, who was not in War, whoſe Intereſts we ſhould even have abandon'd; ſo that this was not the firſt time that we made a formal Declaration to the Mediators, that the Biſhop of *Strasburg* is an Ally of the King, and that the Allies could not be ignorant of it. We are, Sir, *&c.*

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *Auguſt* 12. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d' Avaux*; I ſhall return no Anſwer by this Letter to what you inform'd Me of by yours of the 30th *ult.* touching the Conſtruction which Sir *William Temple* has put upon you, that you had engag'd yourſelves in the renewing of the Treaty of 1662. in all its Articles. This Affair has been ſufficiently clear'd both by you at *Nimeguen*, and by the Sieur *Courtin* in *England*. The ſaid Writing which I caus'd to be deliver'd to my Lord *Mountague*, has quite ſupplanted the Suſpicions that the King of *Great Britain* entertain'd thereof. Therefore this Difficulty is entirely at an end, and I am apt to believe that it will only ſerve to notifie to the King of *Great-Britain*, that he ought ſometimes to miſtruſt the Sincerity of the ſaid Sir *William Temple*, in things which relate to Me. It will be expedient nevertheleſs, that if Monſieur *Beverning* reſumes the Negotiations which he had begun with you, you ſhould explain yourſelves ſo poſitively upon the Articles of the Treaty of 1662. which you are willing to renew, and on thoſe which you are to exclude, that there remain no Umbrage in *England*.

If by the Interceſſion of His Holineſs's Nuncio, the whole Embaſſy of the Emperor in a body, notifies its Arrival to you after the Biſhop of *Curk* is come to *Nimeguen*, that the ſame may in a body receive your Viſit at that Biſhop's Houſe, and that the three Ambaſſadors may return it

to

to you all together at the Houſe of the Mareſchal *d' Eſtrades*, I think it proper for you to receive it; ſince the complete Embaſſy will repair the particular Error of Monſieur *Straatman*, and will appear alſo to have condemn'd his Conduct; but before all things, obſerve the ſame Meaſures in this Affair, as you have already given Me an Account of; that is to ſay, that the Emperor's Embaſſy ſo viſit the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* without Rank, as being of one and the ſame Family, that they not only pay them that Viſit before the Nuncio, but alſo that they the ſaid Embaſſy give him a Writing thereof, and viſit you immediately after him and the Ambaſſadors of *England*, one of whom without the Character even of Mediator, is always the firſt among Catholick Princes, and the other holds without conſequence the Rank which he thinks fit to comport with his Mediation.

The Difficulty which the Emperor's Miniſters made to receive the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, by the Hands of the Sieur *Duter*, ought to diſcover to the whole Aſſembly, in caſe that they inſiſt thereon, a premeditated Deſign to put off the Peace. While that Prince is diſpoſſeſs'd of his Territories by the Emperor's Orders, 'tis contrary to all manner of reaſon to recommend him to the Diet of *Ratisbon* for Protection. This would too remarkably prejudice the Princes of the Empire, and render thoſe who have always maintain'd themſelves Independent, Subject to the Emperor.

The Biſhop of *Strasburg*, by the natural Right he has acquir'd even by the Treaty of *Weſtphalia*, was able to enter into an Alliance with Me, and it is ſo much the more reaſonable that he ſhould produce his Pretenſions in the Aſſembly of *Nimeguen*, becauſe without having ever declar'd himſelf an Enemy of the Emperor and the Empire, he was

perſecuted by the Emperor, and driven out of his Territories. The Refuſal alſo which is made at this time, to admit him into the number of Perſons concern'd in the Aſſembly, cannot be more unaccountable, becauſe by the Paſports given to the Sieur *Duker*, his Envoy, it may be ſaid he has been already admitted there, and that he has been acknowledg'd there as one of the Parties who have a Right to produce their Complaints, and Demands there. Wherefore, I being willing to know his Intentions more particularly, he ſignified to Me, that ſince he would not indeed paſs for an Enemy of his Country, it was principally his Deſign to appear at *Nimeguen*, as my Ally; That being ruin'd, for having manag'd as much as lay in his Power, my Intereſts in the Empire, and in the War againſt *Holland*, he expected my Protection to ſupport his; that 'twas under that Title he deſign'd to act, and deſir'd Me to order you to deliver in his Arguments and Pretenſions in my Name; That the Sieur *Duker* would furniſh you therewith, but that he would leave to you the Care of improving and maintaining them, becauſe he would be acknowledg'd as my Ally, and not as a principal Party. He is preparing Memorials on this Account, which I will take care to ſend you, and would have you act accordingly. The manner wherein I grant my Protection to this Prince is not foreign to the Empire, ſince 'tis the ſame which was obſerv'd at *Munſter*, in favour of the Elector of *Triers*, for whom I acted throughout the whole Courſe of the Treaty, by which I caus'd him to be re-eſtabliſh'd in the Poſſeſſion of his Lands and Revenues.

Your Letter of the 3d inſtant, ſhews Me that tho' His Holineſs's Nuncio and the *Engliſh* Ambaſſador demanded a poſitive Promiſe to make Anſwer to Prince *Charles*'s Propoſals, and made a Scruple

to

to deliver them to you without that Engagement, yet your Firmneſs in refuſing that intolerable Demand forced them at length to deſiſt from making it, and to ſend you the Propoſals of that Prince, of which you diſpatched Me a Copy. The ſame are ſo extravagant, that I don't think proper to give you farther Orders to make Anſwer thereto. Forasmuch as I ſhall ſhortly ſend you the Demands of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, the Scruple which perhaps the Emperor's Ambaſſadors will make of giving Anſwer thereto, will furniſh you with a Method of refuſing to give one ſo ſoon to the Demands of Prince *Charles*. For the Negotiations of Peace ſeem ſo cool hitherto on the part of my Enemies, that nothing can prevail with Me to explain Myſelf as to the Prince of *Lorrain*, when they deny the ſame to the Biſhop of *Strasburg*.

Your ſaid Letter of the 3d of this Month, ſhew'd Me the Memorial which His Holineſs's Nuncio deliver'd you, with the Copies of the Briefs that were written to the Duke of *Longueville*, and to the Chiefs of the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and *Spain* at *Munſter*, as well as thoſe which are directed at preſent to the Chiefs of the ſaid Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*. This Practice as to your particular Briefs having been eſtabliſh'd in an Aſſembly ſo ſolemn, I do not ſee any occaſion to diſpute it now. All that I approve, is even as you have propos'd, that before you entirely let go your Demand, you obſerve in what manner the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and *Spain* will receive thoſe which are directed to them. I make a greater Exception as to the Diſpenſation which the Nuncio told you was ſent to *Munſter*, and wherein the Diſtinction due to Me was not obſerv'd. Perhaps, I ſhall receive it with your next Letters, if as he declar'd to you, he does not doubt but it will be ſent him from *Rome*. But

notwithstanding the Arguments which he alledges to you upon that Account, even of the last Convocations of the Council of *Trent*, my Intention is not, that you should recede as yet from the just Pretension you have laid before him. All that I desire is, that till the first Orders and the last Resolution which I shall take upon this Affair, you would let it continue in the same Posture as you have done hitherto between us, and the Nuncio only, so as that the *Germans* and *Spaniards* may have no Knowledge thereof. For the rest, I pray God, to take you, my Cousin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Messieurs *Colbert* and Count *d' Avaux*, into his sacred Protection.

Written at Versailles, *the* 12*th of* August, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *Auguſt* 13. 1677.

SIR,

ALtho' we have been honour'd this Poſt with a Diſpatch from the King, yet we have ſo little to ſay to His Majeſty, that we dare not give ourſelves the Honour to write to Him. We only thought ourſelves oblig'd to tell you the Joy we conceive that His Majeſty is ſo fully ſatisfy'd with the Intelligence we gave him as to the Affair we were about to manage concerning the renewing of the Articles of the Treaty of 1662. which relate to the Buſineſs of Commerce.

The Report of the Victory gain'd by the *Swediſh* Army over that of *Denmark* in *Schonen* is confirm'd, and proves entirely true. 'Tis alſo aſſur'd, that ſince that Battle, the King of *Sweden* has beat them a ſecond time. What makes us give Credit to the laſt Piece of News, is becauſe the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* agrees that there has been a ſecond Fight, without telling what was the Succeſs, giving only to underſtand, that ſome Letters ſay his Maſter gain'd all the Advantage of this ſecond Action, but there are other Letters which aſſure the contrary. If the King of *Sweden* knows how to make the beſt of his Victories, as we do not doubt, there is Reaſon to hope he will expel the *Danes* out of that Province.

The Marquis *de la Fuente*, who goes Ambaſſador to *England*, is ſet out hence. Forasmuch as he did

not ſtay here above two Days, he would neither receive nor pay any Viſit. Nevertheleſs, we ſaw him in the Walks, and in the Places of Aſſembly.

The Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* have been to ſee thoſe of *Spain*, and ſince the latter foreſaw that the others would make a ſeparate Viſit ſome time after the firſt were paid, they deſir'd the Ambaſſador of *Holland* not to go and viſit them till the ſame Day the *Swedes* went, which fell out accordingly; ſo that thoſe Gentlemen were, tho' ſore againſt their Will, incloſ'd with all the other Miniſters in the firſt Viſits. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *Auguſt* 17. 1677.

Gentlemen,

I anſwer the Letter you did me the Honour to write to me the 10th inſtant. So ſoon as I had time to give His Majeſty an Account thereof, he obſerv'd therein the divers Propoſals which have been made to you by the Nuncio in order to adjuſt the Difficulties, that happen'd upon the firſt Viſits between you and the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor. You have already ſeen, that he approves of the Expedient which was propos'd, that the Biſhop of *Gurk* being at *Nimeguen*, ſhould notifie his Arrival to you together with his Colleagues; that they ſhould receive your Viſit all three together, and that they ſhould return it to you.

you all three together. In this manner the Body of the Embaſſy would repair the Error of the Particulars, and this is alſo the ſole Expedient which His Majeſty thinks you can admit of.

Notwithſtanding the Excuſes which Count *Kinsky* propoſes to make you occaſionally, the Viſit which he deſigns that you ſhould render him, would ſtill be preceded by thoſe which he has receiv'd from other Miniſters; and this is what cannot comport with the Rank you ought to hold. As to Monſieur *Svaatman*, forasmuch as he requires nothing, and thereby ſeems ſufficiently to condemn the Conduct he has obſerv'd, there can be no Difficulty, when he will not receive your Compliments, but with the entire Body of the Embaſſy. You may only add thereto, the Declaration which he is willing to make you in Writing by the Nuncio, that the Deficiency in his Conduct towards you was rather the Fault of his Domeſticks than his own, which would be much more valid, even as you remark'd, than by the Verbal Proceſs the Nuncio offers to deliver you; but of all the Methods of Agreement, you ſee, Gentlemen, that the principal, and which His Majeſty deſires you would abide by, is, that the whole Body of the Embaſſy may receive your Viſit the firſt, after the Nuncio, and the Ambaſſador of *England*, and notifie it to you in the ſame Rank. There is ſo much Reaſon and Juſtice therein, that the Ambaſſadors of his *Imperial* Majeſty would be quite in the Wrong, if they refus'd this Propoſal.

I know not what Term to give to the affected Curioſity of the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, as to the Viſits which are made to you before them. This Procedure, as far as I know the Temper of the Nation, does not ſurprize one altogether, and leſs ſtill in the Perſon of Count *Oxenſtiern*; but certainly,

tainly, they are the only Persons of their Sentiments; and I do not believe there are very many People in *Europe*, who think that *Sweden* is able to cope with *France*.

Gentlemen, at this time I shall answer what you wrote to His Majesty by your Letter of the 6th instant. You understand already, that he has been fully inform'd of the Suspicion you have incurr'd of renewing the Treaty of 1662. and that he is satisfy'd with the Offices you have us'd for Prince *William*; so that I have nothing to add to those two Points. I shall tell you that he has no less approv'd of the manner in which you receiv'd the Visit of the Ambassadors of *Spain*, and the Precautions you observ'd, to secure the Precedency and the Honour due to your Character.

Gentlemen, I do not pretend to be the first that shall inform you of the News of the Raising of the Siege of *Charleroy*. 'Tis, without doubt, known to you, both by the Advices given you from the Army, and from the Consternation which has appear'd at *Nimeguen*, in the Temper of our Enemies. All their Enterprizes serve to augment the King's Glory, but if they know how to make a good use of those bad Successes, they will very speedily put you in a Capacity to preserve them for the future, by a firm and lasting Peace. I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *Auguſt* 17. 1677.

SIR,

WE expect the King's Orders as to the Anſwer we are to make to the preſſing Inſtances made us on the part of all the Allies, in favour of Prince *Charles*, and whether His Majeſty thinks it proper to ſhew forthwith the Reaſons he has to retain that Prince; or whether he is willing to defer entring upon the Buſineſs that relates to the ſaid Prince, till the end of the Campagne, and make uſe for that purpoſe of the Refuſal which the Confederates make to acknowledge the Biſhop of *Straſburg*, as a Prince ally'd to *France*; or, laſtly, whether he thinks it more reaſonable to ſay that the Propoſals of *Spain* putting us ſo far backward from the Negotiations of Peace, the Intereſts of Prince *Charles* which are only additional, ought not to be diſcuſs'd, before thoſe of his Catholick Majeſty, and the *States-General*, who are the principal Cauſe of the War, are ſeriouſly treated of. Our Reſolution is to ſay nothing, till we know His Majeſty's Sentiments, notwithſtanding the Rumour the Allies may give out of our Delay, to whom they deſign to impute that which they are guilty of, in making Propoſals more reaſonable than the former. But you plainly ſee, Sir, that if His Majeſty enjoins us the ſecond Expedient, and the Allies ceaſe to refuſe the Viſits and Propoſals of the Sieur *Dyker*, they will oblige

us to answer to the main Point, or to acknowledge, as they give out, that we have no Power nor Instruction as to that Matter. We have made some particular Visits both to the Ambassadors of *Spain*, and to Monsieur *Beverning*, rather to keep up a Correspondence of Compliments, and accustom the former to more frequent ones which we may make to others in process of time, for the King's Service, than to find occasion, as for the present, to discourse of Business either with one or the other; and indeed, Sir, all that the former told us, to prove to us that they were in the Right to claim great Restitutions from us, and what we said to them to justify our first Demands, is only a Repetition of the same Arguments which have been already rehears'd, and written several times; to which was only added, what Honour or Truth declar'd on either side most obliging both to the Masters and to the Ministers. So that, Sir, it will be superfluous to give you an Account of all those Interviews. But 'tis not so altogether, with respect to that which we held with Monsieur *Beverning*; and tho' we protested to him that the Visit which we made him was only an Effect of the Compliments we ow'd him upon his Return, and that with regard to Business, we very well knew that in order to conform ourselves to the Intention of the Allies, it was requisite to suspend them till the Close of the Campaign; yet he plainly demonstrated to us, that he sincerely wishes to advance it, and that there was no Delay which he did not think very disadvantageous to his Country; but that till the Subjects of the *States-General* are made sensible, that they may expect a real Re-establishment of Commerce between *France* and them, we can do no Good. Then he enter'd into the Discussion of the two Articles which detain us, as to the first; namely, the Impost of the Duty of

50 Sols

50 Sols *per* Ton, he did not inſiſt to ſuppreſs it, but only to explain it by Articles, which he deſigns to draw up in ſuch a manner, as that the Duty being paid once entirely by a Ship half laden, may not be exacted a ſecond time in another Port of the Kingdom, where ſhe ſhall go to complete her Lading; and in the ſecond Place, that it may not be at the Arbitration of the Commiſſioners, to recover a Payment for a greater Quantity of Tons than the Veſſel actually carries; for which purpoſe, he alſo deſigns to propoſe ſome Precaution againſt the Fraud of the Merchants, and the Oppreſſion of the Commiſſioners appointed to levy the Tax.

As to the Duties laid upon Merchandizes of the Growth of the *United-Provinces*, he perſiſts ſtill, that they ought at leaſt to be reduc'd to the foot of 1662. ſince His Majeſty is willing to put the *States-General* in Poſſeſſion of the ſame Favours, which were granted them by the Treaty of the ſaid Year, and that without this, 'twas to no purpoſe to talk of a Treaty of Commerce. We gave them to underſtand, that that which His Majeſty is willing to grant, is much more advantageous to the Subjects of the *States-General*, than to the *French*, the former trafficking infinitely more by Sea, than His Majeſty's Subjects; and that tho' He were even diſpos'd to give the *States-General* yet greater Satisfaction as to this Point, we did not think it proper to ſolicite him about it at preſent, ſince tho' we ſhould agree with them, the Peace would not be the more forwarded thereby, ſeeing they declare they can never make it without their Allies, who plainly demonſtrate, by their Propoſals, that they deſire nothing more than a continual War, and who talk to us alſo of nothing but the Power of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, join'd with all the Princes and States, who at this Day main-

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tain the Intereſts thereof. He only reply'd to us, ſmiling, that if we would ſatisfie the *States-General*, they would perhaps oblige their Allies to talk in another Dialect. He alſo gave us to underſtand, that the chief Towns are very weary of the War. You know, Sir, that *Amſterdam* is willing to be inform'd of the State of the Negotiations of Peace, and that they ſay with a great deal of Freedom in all the *United-Provinces*, that they do not deſign to contribute next Year to the Charge of the War. His Majeſty may, if he pleaſes, make Reflexions thereupon, and can judge better than we, whether it conduces to the Weal of his Affairs, to advance the particular Negotiation with the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*, and what he may grant them in order to bring the ſame to a good Concluſion.

The Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* being come to ſee us Yeſterday, told us, that they had receiv'd Letters from the Sieur *Puffendorff*, Envoy from the Crown of *Sweden*, to the Electors and Princes of *Germany*, wherein he gives them to underſtand, that the Elector of *Saxony* may be diſpos'd to conclude the Treaty which was formerly propos'd to him in concert with Monſieur *Verjus*, at that time Envoy of *France*. They alſo ſhew'd us the Draught of the Treaty, conſiſting of ſeven Articles, which we do not ſend you, Sir, knowing you have a perfect Knowledge thereof; and they added that what hinder'd the Concluſion of it, at that time, was the Condition which that Prince would inſert therein, that he did not deſign to enter into any Engagement contrary to the Conventions of the Empire, and the Circles, which render'd that Treaty entirely of no Effect to *France* and *Sweden*; but that at preſent, the ſaid Elector is diſpos'd to remit that Clauſe, and for this end to recal his Troops, and even to diſmiſs the Deputy

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he has at the Diet of *Ratisbon*, by leaving his Credentials or his Full Power with thoſe of the Elector of *Bavaria*, with whom, ſay they, he deſigns to enter into a ſtricter Alliance, as well for the Reſtoration of Peace in the Empire, as for the Intereſts of His Majeſty and thoſe of *Sweden*. Sir, They very much rely upon the Advantages which the Alliance of that Prince may bring to the Common Cauſe, and they intreated us to write to you thereof; but foraſmuch as they aſſur'd us that the Elector of *Bavaria*, who paſſionately wiſhes for the Succeſs of this Affair, has caus'd the Importance thereof to be repreſented to His Majeſty by Monſieur *de la Haye*, we thought it ſufficient, Sir, to have given you an Account of what was told us, and that if the Conditions propos'd to His Majeſty are reaſonable, and he finds the Good of his Affairs, and an entire Security in the Obligation of that Prince, all that we could repreſent upon this Account, would add nothing to the Merit of the Cauſe. He has given farther occaſion to the ſaid Ambaſſadors to tell us, that the Elector of *Bavaria*, having nominated the Count *d'Ortenburg* and Monſieur *Meyer*, to come hither in Quality of his Ambaſſadors, that Prince caus'd them to be examin'd by the Sieur *Puffendorff*, whether they would make any ſcruple to give the Precedency to the ſecond of his Ambaſſadors; and that foraſmuch as they had already a Power from the King their Maſter, to grant it to the ſecond of *Brandenburg*, as well as the Title of Excellency, when they thought it proper, they would be very glad to do that Honour to the Ambaſſadors of *Bavaria*, before they gratified others therewith. We made them our uſual Anſwer, which was, that we would follow the Example left us by thoſe who have preceded us in the like Functions, and in ſuch celebrated Aſſemblies. However, foraſ-

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foraſmuch as his Majeſty will not, perhaps, make any Difference between the Electors his Friends, and his Enemies, with relation to theſe ſorts of Favours, which ſtand as Precedents, we believe it will be neceſſary, that Monſieur *de la Haye* ſhould make his utmoſt Efforts to hinder the Elector of *Bavaria* from giving the Title of Ambaſſadors to thoſe whom he ſhall ſend hither, without which we ſhould be excluded from all manner of Correſpondence with them.

The Nuncio's Auditor came three Days ago to ſee each of us in particular, to inform us, that his Imperial Majeſty had vouchſafed to honour his Holineſs's Mediation, in cauſing a new Full Power to be diſpatched, wherein expreſs Mention was made thereof, and even that it was already put into the ſaid Nuncio's Hands by Count *Kinsky*; that the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* offer alſo to pay the ſame Deference to his Holineſs, and that he did not doubt, but after ſo many Marks which his Majeſty has given of his Zeal towards the Holy See, he would vouchſafe to add this new Proof. Sir, we were all three agreed in the Anſwer we return'd, which was, That it was not his Majeſty's Fault that all the due Honour was not paid to the Pope's Mediation: That the firſt Full Power which we communicated, was, a very authentick Proof thereof, and that it was only the Obſtinacy of the Allies of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, in rejecting every thing that made Mention of that Mediation, and the Adherence of the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and of *Spain*, who, at length, tired out our Conſtancy in maintaining a Clauſe to which they themſelves had imputed the Delay of the Negotiations for above two Months: That we alſo propos'd to produce two Full Powers; the one to treat with the Catholick Princes, wherein we would make Encomiums on the Pope's

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Mediation; and the other, to treat with the Proteſtant Princes, wherein Mention ſhould only be made of that of the King of *Great-Britain*: That this Expedient was alſo rejected by all the Allies, Count *Kinsky* and Don *Pedro Ronquillo* being preſent at the Debate; and that conſequently there was Matter of Wonder, that after we had deſiſted only at the Proſecution of the Ambaſſadors of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and her Allies, and for the ſole Good of Peace, from the publick Teſtimonies his Majeſty had given in his Full Power, of his Reſpect for the Holy See, and only complied with the Form of the Full Power in the Manner they deſired, as a Condition, without which, they proteſted, they would not enter upon the Negotiations; they ſhould ſay now, when all his Full Powers have been communicated, and agreed to, they will produce a new one, about which no body is agreed, and pretend thereby to arrogate a Merit from his Holineſs, which does not belong to them, or rather, to find out new Artifices to put off the Peace: That his Majeſty is willing to give an Example to all the other Princes in *Chriſtendom*, of a moſt ſincere Zeal for his Holineſs, but that he did not deſign to follow that of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, which thought to repair an Injury ſhe had done his Holineſs, by rejecting our firſt Full Powers with one ſhe produced underhand, and which he, the ſaid Auditor told us, ought to appear only in the Regiſters of the Court of *Rome*.

In the Concluſion, we gave him to underſtand, that when we ſhould be all agreed in what ſhould make Peace, then it would be eaſie for us to find out Expedients, to give with Grandeur, either in the Preamble of the Treaty, or otherwiſe, all the Honour due to the Pope's Mediation, without prejudicing that of the King of *Great-Britain*, and

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that this Method would be more ſuitable to the King's Honour, than a Full Power ſurreptitiouſly given to the Nuncio, and contrary to the Faith of former Conventions.

Since the writing of our Letter, the ſaid Auditor told two of us, that the Nuncio was ſatisfied with the Copy of our firſt Full Power, and that there was no need to write to his Majeſty as to what he told us; but we thought, Sir, it was much better to write Superfluities to you, than to fail giving you an exact and faithful Account of every thing that paſſes here.

Sir, we annex to our Letter the preſent Memorial, which Monſieur *Chriſtin* has given us to obtain a Paſport for him from the King, to ſend for his Son from *Bruſſels*. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *Auguſt* 20. 1677.

SIRE,

WE receiv'd, with your Majeſty's Diſpatch of the 12th inſtant, the good News of the Raiſing of the Siege of *Charleroy*, and the Retreat of the Prince of *Orange*, which gives us no leſs Joy, than Mortification to the Miniſters of the Allies; amongſt whom, the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* told one of us two Days before, that what made him hope well of this Enterprize, was, that the Prince of *Orange* knew very well, that if he did not ſucceed therein, he ſhould incur the Diſreſpect of *Holland*, and that there would be no other Expedient for him, than a ſhameful Peace. Therefore we may, without flattering ourſelves, expect, that after ſuch glorious Succeſſes with which it has pleas'd God to bleſs your Majeſty's Arms, and your infinite Foreſight, you will, at length, bring your Enemies to reaſonable Terms. Nevertheleſs, they do not ceaſe, at this day, to renew their Inſtances, in favour of Prince *Charles*, as well by particular Viſits which the Envoy of that Prince and the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* have paid to ſome of us, as by the Way of the Mediators: But altho' the Refuſal they have made hitherto to acknowledge the Sieur *Duker*, as Envoy of a Prince honour'd with your Majeſty's Alliance, gives us juſt Cauſe to defer making Anſwer to the Demands of the ſaid Prince *Charles*; nevertheleſs, we did not think we ought, ſo ſoon,

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to take an Occaſion thereby for ſo doing, for fear left when they ſaw that we only oppos'd the Pretenſions of the Biſhop of *Strasburg* to thoſe of that Prince, they ſhould have Occaſion to believe, that by granting to the former what he deſires, the Refuſal whereof they may perſiſt in a long time, we ſhould be obliged, conſequently, to grant to Prince *Charles* what he demands, or, at leaſt, to explain ourſelves upon the Difference there is between the juſt Pretenſion of the one, and that of the other; which would, in a proper Senſe, be to engage in a poſitive Anſwer, which your Majeſty does not yet think it convenient to make. So that we contented ourſelves with ſaying, That when the Intereſts which we were to debate with the Emperor, *Spain* and *Holland*, were in a Condition from whence we might hope for a ſpeedy Accommodation, it would be time to treat of thoſe of Prince *Charles*. They reply'd to us, that they only deſir'd us to put the latter in the ſame Condition as the former. But we kept to our Anſwer; and we ſhall talk in the ſame Language to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, as to the like Inſtances, which we doubt not but he will alſo make to us. However, Sire, we are of the ſame Opinion with the Sieur *Duker*, that he ſhould continue his Endeavours to be receiv'd here in Quality of Envoy from the Biſhop of *Strasburg*; and if the Allies are willing to ſtay for the Emperor's Anſwer thereupon, we ſhall have Means to quell the Complaints which they make of our Delay in anſwering the Demand of the ſaid Prince *Charles*, by juſt Accuſations which we ſhould form againſt their Procedure.

The Nuncio ſtill gives us Hopes, that the Pope will yield your Majeſty Satisfaction, as to the Difficulty we made to receive his Diſpenſation. He alſo ask'd us, Whether your Majeſty would

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conform to the ſame Expedient which the King of *England* made uſe of in the Full Power he caus'd to be diſpatched to his Ambaſſadors, wherein the Emperor, the King of *Spain*, and all your Enemies, are named on one part; and your Majeſty, with your Allies, on the other. We only told him, that we had not ſeen that Full Power, becauſe the Communication thereof appear'd very ſuperfluous to us, and that we could not accept of it for a Model of the Diſpenſation, before we had ſent your Majeſty a Copy thereof. That, in the mean time, we ſaw no other Expedient, than to name your Majeſty immediately after the Emperor; and that it did not appear to us, that your Ambaſſadors at *Munſter* conſented to any other. Indeed, Sire, hitherto neither the Nuncio, nor his Auditors, have ſo much as ſhewn us the Copy of the Diſpenſation of Nuncio *Chiſi*, which they have ſo often quoted; but ſince they endeavour to find out ſome Method to ſatisfy your Majeſty, and in the mean time aſſure us, that the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and of *Spain*, ſhall have no Knowledge of this Affair, which ſhall continue a Secret, we have only follow'd the Order you gave us, not to recede from the juſt Pretenſion which we have ſignified to the ſaid Nuncio, till your Majeſty lets us know your laſt Reſolution, as well concerning the Expedient for nominating the principal Parties who are in War againſt *France*, on one ſide; and your Majeſty on the other; as touching all thoſe which the Nuncio may propoſe to us. We will alſo conform ourſelves, with reſpect to two of us, to what the *Germans* make; and ſo long as your Majeſty's Embaſſy is treated like that of the Emperor, we ſhall be very well contented.

In the lateſt Viſit we made to Monſieur *Beverning*, we anticipated the Orders your Majeſty gave us in your laſt Diſpatch, upon account of the Articles of the Treaty of 1662; and he told us, that his Demands, and our Anſwers, were ſo much confin'd to the regulating of Trade and Navigation, that he could not deviſe how a larger Extent could be given them; but that he has fully experienc'd, on his part, that the little Advance we made together in our particular Negotiations, had ſufficiently alarm'd all their Allies, and amongſt the reſt, the Electot of *Brandenburg*, who wrote very ſharply to him thereof, and alſo obliged him to an Anſwer diſadvantageous to his Ambaſſadors; ſo that we hope there will not be left, either in *England*, or here, any Umbrage of this Affair. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *Auguſt* 20. 1677.

SIR,

'TIS not to be imagin'd into what Conſternation the raiſing of the Siege of *Charleroy* puts moſt of the Miniſters of the Allies here. The *Spaniards* ſay openly, that never any Good was to be expected from the Prince of *Orange*, and that 'twas he alone who alter'd the Reſolution that was taken, to give Battle. The *Hollanders* lay all the Blame, as well upon the *Spaniards*, as the *Lunenburghers*; and Madam *Temple*, who is very calm, ſhews her Diſpleaſure with the latter, and ſaid, yeſterday, boldly, at her own Houſe, That the Prince of *Orange* would fail, with reſpect to himſelf, in what he ow'd to his Country, if he did not abandon them, rather than not make a Peace. They are amaz'd, in the mean time, to ſee us diſcover ſo few external Marks of our Joy; and a Gentleman of the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* having ask'd Monſieur *Tambonneau*, why he did not diſcourſe with him on that Affair? he only return'd Anſwer, That the King has ſo much accuſtom'd us to the happy Succeſs of his Arms, that they did no longer ſurprize us; and that we took more Pleaſure in hearing Elogiums of his Majeſty from the Mouths of his Enemies, than to publiſh them ourſelves. 'Tis to be hop'd, Sir, that this Miſunderſtanding among the Allies will

ſhortly put an end to the Campagne, and bring us to a happy Concluſion of our Negotiation.

Foraſmuch as the Nuncio may promiſe us, in order to remedy the Error we found in his Holineſs's Diſpenſation, not to name therein either the King, or the Emperor, but under the comprehenſive Term of Orthodox Princes, we intreat you, Sir, to let us know, whether his Majeſty will be ſatisfied with that Expedient. We are, Sir, *&c.*

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing of our Letter, Monſieur *Beverning* came to meet us, and had a long Conference with us, which began with the Aſſurances of the Sorrow of the *States-General* for loſing his Majeſty's Favour, and of the extreme Deſire they had to re-enter therein, by a good Peace; that in order the more eaſily to attain thereto, he intreated us to vouchſafe to aſſiſt him to repreſent to the People, the Advantage of a good Commerce; that he had, for that purpoſe, drawn up new Articles, of which we are oblig'd to ſend you a Copy, before we can examine ſo much as the Tenour thereof. He only told us, That with reſpect to the Duty of 50 Sols *per* Ton, he would conſent, that it ſhould remain; ſince his Majeſty thinks the Suppreſſion thereof ſo prejudicial to his State. That he only deſir'd, that conformably to the Article which he had drawn up, the Frauds therein might be repreſented, ſo as the Subjects of the *States* may not be obliged to pay it more than one time. But as to the Duty laid upon Cloth, and other Merchandizes of the Product of the *United-Provinces*, he ſaid, that if they were left in the State in which they are at preſent, it were needleſs to diſcourſe about Commerce.

merce. Therefore he told us, he could not depart from the Inſtance he made us, to reduce them to the ſame Foot as they were in the Year 1662: That if it pleas'd his Majeſty, to do the *States-General* this Favour, we ſhould eaſily agree about a proviſional Treaty of Commerce, to be (ſaid he) put in Execution immediately, and till the general Peace can be agreed to. This would give all their Merchants means of going forthwith to lade Wines in *France*, and carry thither conſiderable Sums of Money; and that he did not doubt alſo, but that ſuch a good Beginning would confirm the *States of Holland*, who are ſpeedily to aſſemble, in the Reſolution which moſt of the Towns ſeem to have already taken up, not to continue the War any longer. We have not time to inform you exactly, Sir, of every thing that we made anſwer to him. We gave him to underſtand, that the Duties cannot be reduced to the Foot of 1662, without ſuppreſſing the Tariff of the Years 1664, and 1667, and making a Confuſion in his Majeſty's principal Farms, which we cannot allow; but that in leaving him, by the Treaty, the Liberty which belongs to him, of augmenting or diminiſhing his Duties, he would, after the Peace made with the *States-General*, deal with all the Equity and Moderation they could reaſonably deſire. We likewiſe told him, That we did not believe his Majeſty would admit of a Propoſal for a proviſional Treaty, in order to be put in Execution, during the War; and that Commerce ought (according to our Opinion) to follow Peace, and not to precede it. We alſo find therein other Inconveniences, as well by reaſon it would give the *States-General* freſher Means to make War againſt us, as becauſe *England*, and even his *Britannick* Majeſty, who make an Advantage by our Rupture with *Holland*, with

reſpect to Trade, would not diſcern ſuch a ſpeedy Re-eſtabliſhment thereof, without Jealouſy. But perhaps, Sir, this might contribute very much towards diſengaging the *States-General* from their Alliance. You may examine, if you pleaſe, Sir, the Arguments Pro and Con, and notify to us his Majeſty's Intentions, to which we ſhall always conform ourſelves.

Sir *Lionel Jenkins* likewiſe came to ſee us, and made us yet more preſſing Inſtances than their Nuncio, to anſwer the Demand of Prince *Charles*; giving us to underſtand, that as ſoon as we have given this Satisfaction to the Allies, they would deliver us certain Propoſals, which would very much forward the Negotiations of Peace; and that he only deſires, that the Intereſts of that Prince may keep an even Pace with theirs. Altho' we were ſomewhat more Extenſive in the Anſwer we made him, than in what we told the Nuncio; it was, nevertheleſs, the ſame in Subſtance; and the little Time we have left, does not permit us, Sir, to give you an Account of all the Debates we had with the ſaid Sir *Lionel Jenkins* on this Subject.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *Auguſt* 24. 1677.

SIR,

WE receiv'd the Letter you did us the Honour to write to us the 17th inſtant, which diſcovers to us the King's Intentions, as to the Affair of the Viſits of the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, and the Expedients propos'd againſt the Time of the Arrival of the Biſhop of *Gurk*, to whom the Nuncio has hitherto deferr'd the giving Notice of his Arrival, in hopes to cauſe him to put Matters in practice, according to the Draught which he made of them, which we perceive by your Diſpatch, that the King does not approve of; and therefore we ſhall fulfil his Majeſty's Intentions. We judge alſo, that we may be able, from this time, to give you an Account of that Article, as a Thing concluded. But foraſmuch as we have been willing to ſee, before all things, the verbal Proceſs of the Nuncio, which is to contain our Securities, to prevent our meeting with any unlucky Diſappointment, when the Matter in hand ſhall be about the Execution of it; as he thought might happen, in the Viſit which they would cauſe us to make to the *Spaniards*, before Sir *Lionel Jenkins*. And whereas there muſt be ſome Time for the Nuncio to draw up that verbal Proceſs, we cannot be able to give you an Account thereof, till by our next; during which time, Sir, the Nuncio continues to ſee thoſe

Gentlemen, and to diſpoſe them to the End he has propos'd.

Since our laſt Diſpatch, the Nuncio and Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, one after the other, made preſſing Inſtances to us, on the part of the Allies, for an Anſwer to the Propoſal of Prince *Charles*; but ſince his Majeſty's laſt Diſpatch inform'd us of his Intentions, as to that Affair, we have endeavour'd to act in purſuance thereof, the moſt exactly that we could. We anſwer'd them truly, as before, That we could not ſufficiently wonder, to ſee the Miniſters of the Allies ſolicite, with ſo much Earneſtneſs, our Anſwer, as to the Affairs of *Lorrain*, inſtead of promoting the Peace by any new Propoſals: That we had acknowledg'd the Miniſter of Prince *Charles*, and receiv'd his Propoſals; that it might be ſaid his Affairs were as forward as thoſe of the Allies, and ours alſo, ſeeing no Perſon had departed hitherto from his firſt Propoſals: That when the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, the Catholick King, and all the other Allies, would make other Propoſals more convenient, as well with regard to *France*, as her Allies, we ſhould notify by our Anſwers, as we have always done hitherto by our Advances, that his Majeſty has nothing more at Heart, than to contribute to the Repoſe of *Chriſtendom*. We told them farther, that we could not apprehend, how the Emperor, the King of *Spain*, and their Allies, ſhould, at this time, refuſe to acknowledge the Biſhop of *Straſburg*'s Miniſter, after they have given him their Paſports, ſince the Condition of that Prince in the Empire, and his Character of an Ally to the King, gives him Power to act in the Aſſembly, with all manner of Freedom; and to make ſuch Propoſals therein, as he ſhall think fit.

The Nuncio has deſir'd a Paſport of us, not for the Adminiſtrators of the Biſhoprick of *Straſburg*, (as Sir *Lionel Jenkins* has done) but for the two Deputies of that Chapter, about its particular Affairs. We told him, that we had formerly anſwer'd Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, that we could not employ ourſelves for that end, becauſe the Biſhop of *Strasburg* had a Miniſter at *Nimeguen*; but that if the Nuncio did not deſire the Paſports for the Adminiſtrators, but ſimply for the Deputies of the Chapter of *Strasburg*, the ſaid Chapter might apply to its Biſhop, who was in Court, and who knew whether that would be prejudicial or indifferent to him, and would uſe his Offices with his Majeſty to obtain or oppoſe it.

The Envoy of the Duke of *Holſtein Gottorp* deſir'd of us, yeſterday, the King's Protection, and gave us a Memorial by him ſign'd, of which we ſend you a Copy, and whereupon we expect (if you pleaſe) his Majeſty's Orders; for we made him Anſwer, That we ſhould have the Honour to give him an Account of the Inſtance which he made us, on the part of his Maſter. As we were concluding our Letter, Monſieur *Beverning* came again to meet with us; and after having declar'd to us, how much the Intereſts of the Prince of *Orange* are at the Heart of the *States-General*, he deliver'd into our Hands the Memorial hereto annex'd, containing the Privileges which he pretends belong to the Principality of *Orange*, in the Enjoyment whereof he deſires to be re-eſtabliſh'd by the Treaty which ſhall intervene; to which he ſays, that the Satisfaction of the ſaid Prince will be a good Introduction. There are very many of thoſe Rights which cannot be clear'd, but on the Places themſelves. We intreat you, Sir, to give Orders, that we may be inform'd of the Anſwers which we are to make thereto, and to vouch-

fafe to let us know alſo, what his Majeſty is willing to grant to the ſaid Prince.

The Nuncio's Auditor came afterwards, who told us, that having propoſed to the Biſhop of *Gurk* the Expedients whereof we inform'd you heretofore, touching the Viſits which we may give and receive; that Ambaſſador anſwer'd him, that his Collegues would not agree thereto, and that, for his part, he could not ſeparate himſelf from the others. So that this, Sir, entirely forbids a Correſpondence of Viſits, between the *Germans* and us; and we muſt be content to treat with them by the way of the Mediators.

The Biſhop of *Marſeilles* arriv'd in this City yeſterday in the Evening, and ſets out hence the day after to-morrow, to repair to the King. We are moſt really, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *Auguſt* 26. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; I perceive by the Letter you wrote to Monſieur *de Pomponne*, that in the Conferences you had with Monſieur *Beverning*, he made you look upon the Treaty of Commerce, as the firſt Step which might induce his Maſters to Peace; and that he alſo gave you to underſtand, that when they were ſatisfy'd, they might eaſily oblige their Allies to make uſe of other Terms than thoſe wherein they had hitherto explain'd themſelves; and that he farther declar'd to you, how weary the principal Towns of *Holland* were of maintaining the War any longer; and that you had reaſon to judge, by all the Advices you receiv'd thereof elſewhere, that Peace was paſſionately wiſh'd for throughout all the *United-Provinces*.

I have nothing to add to the Inſtructions I have already given you, touching my Diſpoſitions for renewing a Treaty of Commerce with the *States-General*, even after I have ſo particularly unfolded to you that which purely relates to the Article of Navigation and Commerce in the Treaty of 1662, diſtinct from the Guaranties and Defenſive Alliance. My Intention, as to that Point, is always the ſame. I would have the *States* flatter themſelves, upon good Grounds, conſidering that Advantage, when they ſhall make Peace with me. I alſo think it expedient, that you ſhould confirm the Hopes thereof, which Monſieur *Beverning* has

conceiv'd; and that you ſhould tell him, you will readily receive from his Hands, ſuch Expedients, as he is minded to propoſe to you, in order to hinder the Oppreſſions practis'd by the Commiſſioners for the Duty of 50 Sols *per* Ton. As to his Pretenſions of agreeing upon certain Duties of Importation of the Merchandizes that come out of the *United-Provinces* into my Kingdom, upon the Foot they were ſettled in 1662, altho' my Intention is not, that you ſhould enter with him upon any thing that looks like an Engagement on that Affair; neither am I willing that you ſhould reject the Propoſal of it in ſuch a manner, as to put him out of all Hopes thereof: I am deſirous that he ſhould flatter himſelf, that the Negotiation may be ſet on Foot, which is capable of ſucceeding or miſcarrying, accordingly as they ſhall behave themſelves well or ill towards me. You have alſo ſo much the leſs urgent Neceſſity to return an Anſwer to him, upon that Article, in regard that you ought to wait for the Expedients he is to communicate to you, to put a Stop to the Frauds they complain of, in collecting of the 50 Sols *per* Ton. For what remains, my Will is, that the *States* conceive Hopes of a Treaty, which is ſo much wiſh'd for by all the People; and that the Intereſt of ſeeing it executed, immediately after the Concluſion of the Peace, may alſo ſerve to increaſe the Deſire they ſhew of making it. Take Care only to give Notice to the Ambaſſadors of *England*, of every thing which ſhall be tranſacted in that Affair. I have already given you to underſtand, that before you anſwer the Demands of Prince *Charles*, I deſire that the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Straſburg* ſhould paſs thro' your Hands, into thoſe of the Mediators. If the Miniſters of the Emperor make any Scruple to receive and anſwer them, I ſhould have the ſame reaſon

reaſon to return no Anſwer to thoſe of that Prince. I am apt to believe, that the Biſhop of *Strasburg* has charg'd the Sieur *Duker* to deliver you the Memorial which he is to ſend in to the Aſſembly, becauſe I have given him to underſtand, even as I have already told you, the Protection I am diſpoſed to afford him on that Occaſion.

The Account which the Sieur *Puffendorff* communicated to me by the Envoy of *Sweden*, who is at my Court, of what he has negotiated with the Elector of *Saxony*, is very different from what was told you by the Ambaſſadors of that Crown. He does not ſignify, that that Prince is diſpoſed to oblige himſelf to recal the Troops he has in the Emperor's Army; and having never been willing to engage himſelf to anſwer for the Conduct of the Prince his Son, I always ſaw little Appearance to repoſe an entire Confidence in his own. This was the reaſon that I would not hazard a conſiderable Expence, for ſome invalid Engagements which he offer'd to make in the Diet of *Ratisbon*. You may explain yourſelves after this manner to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, and give them to underſtand, that 'tis hard for either me, or the King their Maſter, to rely, with Security, on that Prince, as long as they ſee the Electoral Prince his Son in our Enemies Army.

The Conduct I have preſcrib'd you, which is authoriz'd by Cuſtom, with reſpect to the Ambaſſadors of the Electors, does not admit of any Difference, whether thoſe Princes are my Friends or not: So that you cannot exempt yourſelves from dealing with thoſe of *Bavaria*, in the ſame manner as you have done with thoſe of *Brandenburg*. That Difficulty was known before at *Munich*, and makes me think the Elector of *Bavaria* will only give the Title of Envoy to the Miniſters whom he will ſend to the Aſſembly.

I approve, that in order to put an end to the Pretenſions which the Pope's Nuncio ſignified to you, of a new Full Power, wherein his Mediation might be particularly expreſs'd, you ſhould give him the Copy of the firſt, which you communicated at *Nimeguen*. It will ſerve inſtead of an aſſured Method, to let him know the Care I had, publickly to denote my Regard and Deference to his Holineſs's Mediation. 'Tis alſo true, that I ſhould have maintain'd it, if the Houſe of *Auſtria* had made uſe of the ſame Intentions as I have, to ſupport it, contrary to the Oppoſition of his Allies. Perhaps they will diſcover, at *Rome*, how weak is this manner of repairing now a-days, by an Act which continues conceal'd from the whole Aſſembly, the Publick Abandoning of the Pope's Mediation, ſpecified in the Full Powers, which ought to be communicated there, by all the Catholick Princes. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Verſailles, *the 26th day of* Auguſt, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *Auguſt* 26. 1677.

Gentlemen,

YOU perceive the King's Letter fully anſwers your Diſpatch of the 17th inſtant. That which you were pleas'd to write to me the 13th, requires no particular Anſwer; therefore I ſhall only add thereto, That His Majeſty ſets out this Day for *Fountainebleau*, where He makes Account to ſtay three Weeks, and to enjoy the Divertiſements which the preſent fine Seaſon offers Him. Foraſmuch as I ſet out at the ſame time, I ſhall not have an Opportunity to hold a Correſpondence with you any longer, and I ſhall only aſſure you, Gentlemen, of the Reality with which I am at your Service, more than any other Perſon.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *Auguſt* 27. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing to add to our laſt Diſpatch, nothing having happen'd ſince, which deſerves your Notice.

The Marquis *de los Balbaſes* has intreated us to deſire a Paſport of the King, for the Duke *de San Pedro* his Son-in-Law, who is going into *England*. We ſend you the Memorial thereof.

The Biſhop of *Marſeilles* ſet out this Morning for *Amſterdam*. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne,

Dated *Auguſt* 31. 1677.

SIR,

THE Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* have given us the Memorial hereto annex'd, in which they complain, That after all the Inſtances which have been made to obtain of the King of *Denmark*, a free Paſſage for their Letters; after all the facile Methods the King has laid down, with Reſpect to *Spain*, to cauſe *Sweden* to enjoy the ſame Freedom of Correſpondence; nevertheleſs, it has been ſtill expreſly deny'd them: That however, in the Neceſſity which they the Ambaſſadors are under, to have new Powers, and freſh Inſtructions from the King their Maſter, they obtain'd a Galliot of the *States-General*, to carry Monſieur *Lillieroth* to *Sweden*, and afterwards to bring back the ſaid Powers, with ſome Proviſions for their Families: And altho' that Galliot belongs to the *States*, and bore their Flag, beſides that the Captain had a particular Paſport for what he had on board his Veſſel, belonging to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*; nevertheleſs, the *Danes* ſtopt it, and took away the Full-Powers, Inſtructions and Proviſions, which they had ſent for. They preſented this Memorial to the Mediators of *England*, and we have been this Morning to join our Offices and Inſtances with theirs. We doubt not, but that even the *States-General*, who are in this reſpect moſt injur'd, will

compla in

complain very bitterly of that Action, which is equally contrary to the Publick Faith, and the Fidelity which the *Danes* owe to their Allies. This, Sir, is the only Buſineſs of which we are to give you an Account this Poſt. The Allies hold frequent Conferences, but nevertheleſs, we hear no longer any Talk of 'em; altho', as far as we are told, Monſieur *Beverning* declares to them very often, and boldly, that the *States-General* will abſolutely make a Peace this Winter. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *September* 3. 1677.

SIRE,

FOraſmuch as we expect by the firſt Poſt Your Majeſty's Orders, as to the Articles of the Treaty of Commerce, which we did ourſelves the Honour to ſend to You; we have little to acquaint You with now about this Matter, in regard that we have deferr'd till then the ſeeing of Monſieur *Beverning*. We ought however to acquaint Your Majeſty, That Monſieur *Hulſt* coming to viſit one of us, expreſs'd to him a great Zeal for that Affair, and aſſur'd him, that it was the only means for engaging the Province of *Holland* to force the Prince of *Orange* to a Peace; that he the ſaid *Hulſt* was at *Amſterdam* a few Days ago; That what he had there declar'd, concerning Your Majeſty's good Intentions for the Re-eſtabliſhment of the Treaty of Commerce, had already induc'd the City of *Amſterdam* to deſire that what

what was treated of at *Nimeguen*, might be communicated to them: That he, his Relations and Friends, who were the chief Perſons of *Amſterdam*, would cauſe that Treaty to be diſtributed in the other Towns, and that he doubts not, but they may, in that caſe, oblige the Prince of *Orange* to make Peace: He alſo added, that he could tell many things which were not very becoming in Monſieur *Beverning*; yet that he could well aſſure, that he would not ſay or do any thing, but what he was moſt certainly inform'd of: Indeed, Sire, he is a very diſcreet young Gentleman, Secretary of the Embaſſy of *Holland*, and a Kinſman of Monſieur *Beverning*: It may alſo be ſuppos'd, that what he ſaid, was by the Conſent of that Ambaſſador.

Sire, the ſaid Monſieur *Huſſ* came alſo to learn, whether there was any Anſwer as to the Affair of Commerce, and a Reply was made to him, That none could be expected till next Poſt, immediately after the Memorials of Monſieur *Beverning*, which we have ſent. But upon the general Notice which we gave Your Majeſty of that Ambaſſador, and the Deſire of the *States-General* to re-enter into the Honour of your Favour; we have receiv'd an Anſwer thereof, ſo as it may be aſſur'd, That when the *States-General* ſhall be really diſpos'd to put an end to the War, they will find in Your Majeſty the abſolute Diſpoſition you always had to honour them with your Favour.

Sire, ſo ſoon as we have the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Straſburg*, we will not fail to carry them to the Mediators, in the manner as Your Majeſty preſcribes us.

We have notified to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, That the Account which the Envoy of that Nation gave Your Majeſty, of what Monſieur *Puffendorff* has negotiated with the Elector of *Saxony*,

was

was very different from what they told us of it; and they gave us grounds to believe by their Answer, that what they had advanc'd was rather out of the hopes they conceiv'd, of what might be done with the Elector of *Saxony*, than from any positive Promise which they had thereof: So that they continue very well satisfy'd in Your Majesty's Good-Will, in case they could repose some positive Assurance in that Prince, which they believ'd very difficult. We are, with all manner of Submission and Respect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated *September* 3. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing to add to the Letter, we give ourselves the Honour to write to the King: He of us whom Monsieur *Hulft* made acquainted with his Design, told it to the two others, as well as the two following Pieces of News: The one, that the *States General* have heard, that there go Couriers two or three times a Week from *Madrid* to *Fontarabia*, who in all Appearance pass as far as *Bayonne*, where is Monsieur *Grammont*, who may negotiate some things; because as soon as those Couriers are return'd to *Madrid*, the Council of *Spain*, which is usually so tedious, assembles presently: The other much more considerable Particular, which he told on the part of Monsieur *Beverning*, is, That that Minister positively knew, that

that the *Spaniards* had the ſame Views, and the ſame Hopes of making themſelves Maſters of the *United-Provinces*, as they had ſixty Years ago.

Monſieur *Duker* told us, That he was inform'd by the Biſhop of *Paderborn*, when he paſs'd thro' that City, about a Fortnight ago, that there was a Treaty between the Emperor, the Elector of *Cologn*, the Duke of *Newbourg*, the Biſhop of *Munſter*, and others, all together to compoſe an Army upon the *Lower-Rhine*. The time ſince we were inform'd here, of that Treaty, makes us believe, Sir, that you have already receiv'd Advice thereof: However, as ſoon as Monſieur *Duker* gives us the Copy of it, which he promis'd us, we will ſend it you, and give one alſo to Monſieur *Beverning*, who deſir'd it of us this Morning by Monſieur *Hulſt*. That Miniſter looks upon the Alliance made by this Treaty, as a kind of League againſt the States, and has hitherto appear'd willing to make uſe of all the Methods which he can find out, to make his Maſters ſenſible of the Neceſſity they are under, of making a ſpeedy Peace: Indeed, Sir, thoſe two Viſits of Monſieur *Hulſt* one after another, that Earneſtneſs for the Anſwer to the Treaty of Commerce, the Deſire of having the Treaty of *Cologn*, and the Umbrage which Monſieur *Beverning* takes thereat, induce us to believe, that the Allies begin to ſuſpect one another, and that the *States-General* may well take at length a ſerious Reſolution to put an end to the War.

Sir, we give ourſelves the Honour to ſend you a Copy of the Memorial preſented by the Miniſter of the Elector *Palatine*, to the Aſſembly of the Ambaſſadors of the Allies: The two firſt of the three Articles which that Memorial contains, have been granted him; but he could not obtain any Conceſſion as to the laſt. We are, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *September* 6. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; your Letter of the 24th *ult.* ſhew'd Me, That when His Holineſs's Nuncio advanc'd farther in the Meaſures, which were taken between you and the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, in order to concert the Viſits, which you might pay one another; the Biſhop of *Gurk* broke off all the Negotiation thereof, by declaring, that he could not ſeparate himſelf from his Collegues; and that they could not conform to the Expedients which had been propos'd to them: I have no need to tell you, That you have no other Medium to accept of, and that Count *Kinsky* and Monſieur *Straatman*, having not render'd you due Reſpect, you ought not to ſee them, till they have repair'd it.

I cauſe to be annex'd to this Diſpatch, the Memorial of the Demands of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, which I doubt not but you have already receiv'd by Monſieur *Duker*. My Intention is, That you would deliver it to the Mediators, in order to be communicated to the Emperor's Miniſters, and that you may ſupport it with all manner of Recommendation, which may be a farther Mark of the Eſteem I have for that Prince. He ought to appear particularly in the Treaty, under the Name of my Ally; ſo as that Quality and the Offices which you render him, may not hinder his Deputy from being acknowledg'd in the Aſſembly, as he already has been, in the Paſports which were granted

granted him. In caſe they make any difficulty upon that Account, it would be a great Reaſon for you, to put off the Anſwers, which they demanded of you with ſo much Inſtance, touching the Intereſts of Prince *Charles*.

As to the Paſports for the Deputies of the Chapter of *Strasburg*, I have nothing to enjoin you farther, than the Anſwer you have made; and I can in no wiſe admit of them, when I ſee them ſeparated from their Biſhop.

You may tell the Miniſter of the Duke *de Gottorp*, That by the Guaranty I have given to the Treaty of *Copenhagen*, and by the Good-Will I bear towards his Maſter, I am induc'd readily to grant him my Aſſiſtance and Protection, throughout that whole Treaty; and you may in this manner, let him enjoy the Benefit of your Offices, upon every occaſion that ſhall offer.

I have ſeen the Memorial which was deliver'd to you, by Monſieur *Beverning*, as to the Intereſts of the Prince of *Orange*: It is branch'd out into ſo needleſs a Detail, that you ought not to make any particular Anſwer thereto: All that you have to do, is only to declare, (even as you have already done) That I will cauſe that Prince to be re-eſtabliſh'd by the Treaty of Peace, in his whole Principality, in the Condition as it is at preſent, and in all the Rights, which he enjoy'd before the War.

The more you ſignifie, that Monſieur *Beverning* diſcovers to you the Deſire of his Maſter, for Peace; and their Wearineſs in bearing, with ſo great Efforts and Expence, the Inaction and Weakneſs of *Spain*; ſo much the more am I deſirous that you ſhould give him to underſtand, how favourable my Intentions are for the *States*, to put an end to the War, either by a general Treaty or a ſeparate One with them. Conſidering the State of Proſperity

rity and Power, wherein I am at this Day, I even make ſome Advances which can only be attributed to the ſincere Deſire I have of the publick Tranquillity, and my Diſpoſition to reſtore my former Amity to the *United Provinces*. Therefore I would have you tell Monſieur *Beverning*, That the more ſucceſsful my Arms are, the more I am inclin'd to take Meaſures for an Accommodation, and to promote the Security of his Maſters: That I have the ſame Sentiments that you have already made known to them, to procure them advantageous Conditions for their State, and to favour their Commerce: That I will carry myſelf with the ſame Reaſon and Equity, in every thing which relates to their Allies; but if the Intereſts of the Houſe of *Auſtria* diſpoſe them to continue a War, in which ſhe has engag'd them, I would be always ready to favour that Expedient, which they ſhall approve of, in order to treat for them with one. The Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades* will take Care, to inſpire his Friend at *Amſterdam*, with the ſame Sentiments. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Fontainebleau, *the 6th of* September, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *September* 6. 1677.

Gentlemen,

WHat I have to add to His Majeſty's Diſpatch, is to give you an Account of the Receipt of your Letter of the 27th *ult.* Foraſmuch as it contains nothing particular, I anſwer the ſame by ſending you the Paſport which the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* deſir'd of you for the Duke *de San Pedro.* This Morning alſo, I receiv'd that which you were pleas'd to write to me, of the 31ſt of the laſt Month; and, Gentlemen, I return Anſwer thereto, after having given an Account thereof to His Majeſty: He has obſerv'd therein the moſt juſt Complaints, which the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* have made to the Mediators, concerning the little Care that was taken to ſecure the Galley, which the *States-General* granted them, and which brought back to them the Intentions of the King their Maſter. So long as a Commerce ſo neceſſary for Peace, is interrupted in *Denmark*, it will give great Marks of the Deſign they have at *Copenhagen*, to delay it; and all *Europe* may look upon themſelves as intereſted againſt ſuch a Procedure. A twofold Reaſon ought to induce the *States-General* to reſent it; and if they do it effectually, *Denmark* ſtands in ſo much need of them, that 'tis not to be queſtion'd, but that they'll take other Meaſures. His Majeſty approves, that you ſhould ſtrenuouſly join your Offices to their Complaints, and 'tis

reasonable to believe, that the whole Assembly will in this Point side with the Ambassadors of *Sweden*.

Gentlemen, we have no News here, which deserves to be transmitted to you. The Armies in *Flanders* observe each other without acting: That of the Emperor has repass'd the *Mosselle* and the *Saar*, and seems to take again the Route of *Alsatia*. The Mareschal *de Crequi* is gone before, and may be there the first; and Prince *Charles* can hardly avoid being suddenly oblig'd to repass the *Rhine*. Gentlemen, I am entirely at your Service, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated *September* 7. 1677.

SIRE,

WE have receiv'd the Dispatch which Your Majesty was pleas'd to honour us with, of the 31st of *August*, and we should before have made use of the Propositions of the Bishop of *Strasburg*, to oppose the pressing Instances which the Allies continue to make us, in favour of Prince *Charles*, if Monsieur *Duker* had deliver'd them to us, according to the Order Your Majesty assur'd us was sent him. 'Tis true, that we having requir'd it of him a second time, immediately after the Receipt of Your Majesty's Dispatch, he shew'd us a little Memorial, containing the Substance of the Bishop of *Straisburg*'s Demands, and told us, he would incontinently set about putting them into the Form, in which they ought to be presented: That is to say, by adding thereto an Explanation

of the Motives and Reaſons, which oblig'd the ſaid Biſhop to have recourſe to Your Majeſty's Alliance and Protection. We gave him our Sentiments as to the manner wherein that Memorial ought to be drawn up, and as ſoon as he ſhall have put it into our Hands, we will not fail punctually to obſerve the Order which Your Majeſty gives us. In the mean while, to gain time, we contented ourſelves with telling the Mediators, who preſs'd us again two Days ago, both by Word of Mouth and Writing, (of which we ſend you the Copy) to anſwer the Demands of the ſaid Prince *Charles*; that we would conſider the Contents of their Writing, and would go to their Houſes, to acquaint them with our Thoughts thereupon: We only added, That in order to judge better, whether there was any thing to be chang'd in our former Anſwer, we intreated them, to notifie to us, that of the Allies, as to the Demand we made, that Monſieur *Duker* ſhould be acknowledg'd in Quality of Envoy of a Prince, who is in League with, and under the Protection of Your Majeſty; and foraſmuch as the Mediators declar'd to us, That the Allies had not yet taken any Reſolution upon that Affair; we caus'd them to take Notice, that if thoſe Additions could in any wiſe retard the Negotiation, it ought to be imputed to the ſaid Allies, and not to us; and when we ſhall bring them the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, we ſhould notifie to them Your Majeſty's Facilities for forwarding the Peace: Since without waiting till they have receiv'd the Viſits of the ſaid Envoy, which they have no reaſon to refuſe, you have thought fit to cauſe the Propoſals of the ſaid Prince of *Strasburg* to be deliver'd to them by us.

We expect the Reply which the Nuncio will receive from His Holineſs, as to the Anſwer of his

Diſpenſation, before we explain ourſelves upon the Expedients which may be agreeable to Your Majeſty.

We likewiſe expect freſh Orders from Your Majeſty, touching the Articles propos'd by Monſieur *Beverning*; altho' we have no reaſon to believe, they can add any thing to the Explanation you have given of your Intentions, by your laſt Diſpatch, as to the principal Difficulties which may put a ſtop to the Treaty of Commerce; and it only remains for us to know your Pleaſure, as to the particular Demands of the Prince of *Orange*.

Monſieur *Beverning* continually expreſſes a great Impatience to know of us, what Your Majeſty would be pleas'd to do in favour of his Maſters; and ſince you are better inform'd than we, of the Apprehenſion which the Nuncio told us they are under, at the Court of *Vienna*, That the *Hollanders* and even the *Spaniards* will make their ſeparate Agreement with Your Majeſty, and the reciprocal Diffidence there is between them: You may judge much better than we are able to repreſent to you, what hopes 'tis expedient to give to each of them; eſpecially in the preſent Conjuncture of the Aſſembly of the Province of *Holland*, to hinder a common Intereſt from re-uniting them, by the Renewing of a Treaty, and from taking a Reſolution to uſe again (if it be poſſible for them) greater Efforts next Campagne, than they have hitherto done. A happy Experience plainly makes appear to us, That we may rely for the future, upon Your Majeſty's Fore-ſight: Alſo after we have only notified to you, what falls under our Cognizance, we ſhall always wait for the Event of your Reſolutions, with an entire Confidence, and for the Honour of your Orders, with all due Zeal and Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *September* 7. 1677.

SIR,

'TIS now ſome time ago, ſince we gave ourſelves the Honour to write to you, That Count *Kinsky* having refus'd to admit of the Expedient, which the Nuncio propos'd, of reciprocal Viſits, in the Body of the Embaſſy; the Biſhop of *Gurk* likewiſe declar'd that he could not have more Correſpondence with us than his Collegues: He has ſince chang'd his Mind, and told the Nuncio, That for his part, he was very deſirous to expreſs to us the Zeal and Veneration he has for His Majeſty, and for that end to pay us the firſt Honours after the Mediators. This Advice being given us by the Nuncio's Auditor, with an Aſſurance, that we ſhould have the ſame Declarations, touching the Viſit which the ſaid Biſhop intended to give the *Spaniards*, without Rank, that we had concerning thoſe which the latter formerly gave to the *Imperial* Miniſters likewiſe before the Mediators: We did not think we ought to reject that Offer; ſince beſides that the former had no part in the Failure of his Collegues, with whom we had no Communication; it ſeems on the contrary, that he ſufficiently repairs it, by his preſent Conduct towards us: So that after having got an authentick Certificate from the Nuncio, and the Writing which the ſaid Biſhop gave him, whereof we ſend you a Copy; we made the firſt Viſit immediately

after the Mediators, and it will be return'd to us after the ſame manner. We have indeed notified to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, That the Writing which he obtain'd, on his part, of the Biſhop of *Gurk*, was not ſufficient for the Satisfaction of the King his Maſter; and we alſo gave him to underſtand, that if he were not contented, and would not admit of the ſaid Biſhop's Viſit, we would alſo refuſe it; and that apparently our Example would be follow'd by the other Ambaſſadors of the Kings: But the Apprehenſion he was under, of being excluded out of the Mediation, by the *Imperial* Miniſters, made him diſregard our Advice, and accept of that invalid Writing. 'Tis his Buſineſs, to vindicate his Conduct to the King his Maſter; but it ſeems to us, that the Rank which is given us in the receiving and returning of the Viſit, immediately after the Mediators, and the Nuncio's Writing, are ſufficient to ſecure us from all manner of Prejudice: And the rather, becauſe the Viſit having been return'd to the *Spaniards*, by the Biſhop of *Gurk*, even before the latter had ſo much as notified his Arrival to the Mediators; it is publickly known to be ſo far out of Rank, as it plainly ſhews, that the Ambaſſadors of His Catholick Majeſty claim no Competition with us. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *September* 7. 1677.

Gentlemen,

YOur Diſpatch has ſhewn the King, the Conſternation which the Raiſing of the Siege of *Charleroy* has occaſion'd among our Enemies at *Nimeguen*. They cannot have juſter Grounds for it. But if they are wiſe, they may know how to make a good uſe thereof. Thoſe bad Succeſſes in the War, ought to make them have recourſe to Means for putting an end to it; and they ought to take advantage from the favourable Diſpoſitions which they find in His Majeſty. This gives me hopes, that they will ſuddenly find you more Employ than they have hitherto done, and I promiſe myſelf a great deal this Winter, from the happy Succeſs of your Negotiation. I am, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *September* 10. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing this Poſt to add to our laſt Diſpatches, except that the Viſits of the Biſhop of *Gurk* have been made in the manner as we gave ourſelves the Honour to write to you: He paid them in the firſt Place to the Nuncio, then to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, and immediately after to us. Count *Oxenſtiern* having excus'd himſelf from ſeeing him, till Monſieur *Olivenkrans* his Colleague (who has been this Fortnight conceal'd at his own Houſe) be return'd from an imaginary Journey; the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* was viſited in the fourth Place, and after him thoſe of *Brandenburg*; Monſieur *Beverning* having put off the Viſit, in all Appearance, to pleaſe the Electoral Miniſters, who you know diſpute the Rank with the Ambaſſadors of the *States*. Count *Anthony* has been here theſe three Days, and we believe that the Viſits which he is to receive and return, will occaſion alſo greater Difficulties, than that of the Biſhop of *Gurk*: For there is no Appearance, that Sir *Lionel Jenkins* will permit him to viſit the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, much leſs thoſe of *Spain*, before him, under any Pretence whatſoever: And it may alſo happen, that notwithſtanding the Engagement which the King of *Denmark* has made with the Houſe of *Auſtria*; yet the extreme Deſire which Monſieur *Hoeugh* his

his Ambaſſador declares to us, on the part of his Maſter, to be one Day in a ſtrict Alliance with His Majeſty, will hinder Count *Anthony* from doing us a Piece of Injuſtice ſo offenſive; and the rather, becauſe beſides the Declaration of the late King of *Spain*, he has the Example alſo of the Ambaſſadors of that Crown, who have made no Scruple to viſit us before the *Swedes* and *Danes*. This is what we will now give Monſieur *Hoeugh* to underſtand; and however it be, if the ſaid Count *Anthony* refuſes to yield to Reaſon, our Reſolution ſhall be not to ſee him.

Monſieur *Duker* has put into our Hands, a Memorial of the Pretenſions of the Biſhop of *Straſburg*, or rather a Manifeſto to vindicate his Conduct to all the Princes of the Empire: We have taken out of it, the Terms that would be moſt offenſive to the *States-General*, ſuch as theſe *variorum imperii locorum uſurpatores & iniquos detentores*: We have alſo taken out ſeveral other Expreſſions, which we judg'd rather prejudicial than advantageous both to *France*, and to the Biſhop of *Straſburg*; and altho' there are a great many Errors contrary to the Purity of the *Latin* Tongue which requir'd the complete Amendment we thought proper to make therein; nevertheleſs, ſince 'tis a Memorial which ought to be preſented by us, as being produc'd on the part of the ſaid Biſhop, and this *Latin*, tho' half *High Dutch*, yet may be underſtood; we have put it, ſuch as we ſend it you, into the Hands of the Mediators. Were it only, that it contains a great many things, both concerning the ſerving of Prince *William*, and the Menaces of *Iſola*, which the ſaid Monſieur *Duker* ſays he has Orders from his Maſter to ſet forth, which are able to extort very ſevere Anſwers: We thought ourſelves oblig'd to ſtay, till they had the King's Approbation; and in the mean while,

we ſhall endeavour to gain time by the Inſtances which we will continue to make, to the end that the ſaid Monſieur *Duker* may be acknowledg'd here in Quality of an Envoy of a Prince ally'd to the King. If hereafter the Biſhop of *Strasburg* has any other Memorial to preſent, it will be proper that he ſhould let you ſee it, before he ſends it to Monſieur *Duker*, or that he order him to amend it, in the manner as we ſhall judge convenient.

Sir, we ſend you a Memorial which Monſieur *Duker* has put into our Hands, containing the Conditions upon which the Elector of *Cologn* enter'd, the Month of *Auguſt* laſt, into a League with the Emperor, the Duke of *Newbourg*, the Biſhop of *Munſter*, and other Princes of the Empire. You will perhaps receive it by other ways, but we thought it was our Duty to join it to our Letter as ſoon as it was given us.

LETTER

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *September* 13. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; your Letter of the 3d inſtant has ſhew'd Me the Impatience which Monſieur *Beverning* has expreſs'd to you by Monſieur *Hulſt* his Secretary, to know by you the Reſolution I have taken as to the Treaty of Commerce: You have already ſeen, that I have rejected the Propoſal of Making it Proviſional, to the end that the *States* may not have the Advantages they would reap thereby, to bear the Charges of the War: All that I can do, is to agree about it inſtantly, upon condition that it ſhall not take Place till after the concluding of the Peace, whether it be general or a ſeparate One with the *States*. I ſhall ſpeedily let you know my Intentions, as to the Memorial, touching the 50 Sols *per* Ton, which will agree with what the ſaid *States* demand, to prevent the Frauds that may be practis'd by the Commiſſioners, and to regulate the manner after which that Duty ought to be collected: As to the Abatement of the Duty of Importation, 'tis a Point which cannot enter into a Treaty; ſince that would be to intrench upon a Right, which properly belongs to the Sovereign, who raiſes or lowers the Impoſts, according as he thinks reaſonable: Therefore abide by what I have formerly enjoin'd you, on that Affair. I deſire that you would repreſent to Monſieur *Beverning*, That my Intentions are always favourable for his Maſters, and that when they take the true Means, to re-enter by a Peace into my Al-

liance, they will find Me very well diſpos'd, to procure for them in my former Reſpect towards them, the ancient Benefit which they gain'd thereby, both for the Security of their State, and the Advantage of their Traffick. Altho' there is no Foundation whatſoever, for the Suſpicions which are entertain'd in *Holland*, about the frequent Couriers, who are diſpatch'd from *Madrid* to *Fontainebleau*, and none of 'em has paſs'd as far as *Bayonne*; nevertheleſs, take little Care to remove them, but rather endeavour to foment them under-hand, and by giving them to underſtand, that you are not inform'd thereof, leave Monſieur *Beverning* in the ſame Uneaſineſs he appears to be under, as to this Point, *viz.* That while his Maſters too ſcrupulouſly perſiſt, in not treating without *Spain*; *Spain* would not be ſo nice with reſpect to them, and perhaps would come to a ſeparate Agreement for the *Low-Countries* with Me. Let none of your Expreſſions contribute to put this Notion into the Head of Monſieur *Beverning*; but don't uſe any means to overturn what he has already conceiv'd thereof.

Confirm by your Conduct, as far as lies in your Power, the Jealouſie which is already rais'd in the Minds of thoſe Ambaſſadors, that the Alliances between the Biſhops of *Paderborn* and *Munſter*, and the Prince of *Neubourg*, to whom the Elector of *Cologn* is lately join'd, are a real League, which is form'd in *Lower-Germany*, and which may be eaſily turn'd one Day againſt them. They formerly look'd upon it after this manner, even when the Biſhop of *Munſter* declar'd War in 1565. The ſame Occaſions may again revive; and they may be apprehenſive of the rallying of their Neighbours, on the ſide of *Germany*, eſpecially while the Emperor has a principal Part in all thoſe Leagues; and the Perſuaſion Monſieur *Beverning* is under,

That

THat the K. of *Spain* continues in the Thought he had to reduce the Seventeen Provinces again under his Obedience, ought to make him dread every thing from the Houſe of *Auſtria*. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Fontainebleau, *the* 13*th of* Sept. 1677.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *September* 13. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King is very deſirous, that you would ſend him the Copy of the Treaty of the Elector of *Cologn*, when it ſhall be communicated to you. His Majeſty has ſeen the Memorial, which the Elector-Palatine's Miniſter preſented to the Aſſembly of the Ambaſſadors of the Allies, and the Refuſal that was made him to promiſe any thing, as to the laſt of the three Articles. Whereupon he deſir'd an Anſwer to notify to that Prince, that he ought not to expect every thing that he hop'd for, from the Propoſal of our Enemies.

We have News, that the Duke of *Saxe Eyſenach* has been obliged to repaſs the *Rhine*, with a great deal of Precipitation, and that he was even forc'd to abandon above half the Boats which made up his Bridge. I am, Gentlemen, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *September* 14. 1677.

SIRE,

WE have receiv'd your Majeſty's Diſpatch of the 6th inſtant. You are now inform'd by the Anſwer which we have the Honour to make you, that we have paid and receiv'd the Biſhop of *Gurk*'s Viſit, in the Rank due to your Majeſty; and that we are not agreed about any Expedient as to Count *Kinsky* and Monſieur *Straatman*, whom we ſhall not ſee according to your Majeſty's Orders.

We have already ſent to Monſieur *de Pomponne*, by our laſt Diſpatch, the Memorial which the Biſhop of *Strasburg*'s Envoy put into our Hands, to know whether it may be approved in that Form; and we did it, becauſe we were not in haſte, and have, by the reſemblance of his Affair to that of Prince *Charles*, order'd Matters ſo, as nothing ſhould oblige us to anſwer the Inſtances of the Allies, touching the ſaid Prince *Charles*, even as your Majeſty may ſee by the Account we have given thereof to Monſieur *de Pomponne*. We ſhall act in conformity to the Orders you give us, and communicate the Memorial of the Demands of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, whereof your Majeſty has annex'd a Duplicate to your Diſpatch, when the Mediators give us the Anſwer we expect from them, to know whether the Emperor's Miniſters will acknowledge that of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, or not; and when that Anſwer which the Media-

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tors have already told us they muſt take ſome time to conſider of, will oblige us to do it.

Sire, we ſhall conform ourſelves to what we have heard are your Majeſty's Intentions, touching the Paſports of the Deputies of the Chapter of *Strasburg*. We have declared to the Miniſter of the Duke of *Gottorp*, that by the Guaranty your Majeſty granted to his Maſter, by virtue of the Treaty of *Copenhagen*, and out of the Affection you have for him, he may promiſe himſelf your Protection throughout the whole Courſe of the Treaty; and we aſſur'd him, that from henceforth we will, on all Occaſions, ſupport his Intereſt, with our Offices: And he appear'd very well ſatisfy'd therewith.

It remains for us, Sire, to give your Majeſty an Account of what we have done, after we knew your Intentions, as to the Memorial of the Claims of the Prince of *Orange*, which Monſieur *Beverning* gave us, who expected an Anſwer from us, as well upon the ſaid Memorial, as upon the Propoſals he made to us; which we judg'd ought to be given him by me *d'Avaux*, who was the Perſon, in particular, to whom he apply'd, to make them. So that I ſpoke to him conformably to your Majeſty's Orders and Inſtructions; and acquainted him with the real Sentiments you entertain'd for the *States-General*, when they are willing to re-enter, in good earneſt, into your Favour, by a particular Treaty; and that you was alſo ready to promote that Expedient which they ſhould approve of, in order to treat with you for the Houſe of *Auſtria*; when they would not aſſiſt them in their preſent Deſign, to perpetuate the War, wherein they had engaged them for their own Intereſts. Whereupon, I, *d'Avaux*, continuing to let him know, in the Terms your Majeſty commanded, the Sincerity of your Intentions,

tions, for the Repoſe of *Chriſtendom*, and for the particular Advantage of the *States-General*: I told him, with reſpect to the Prince of *Orange*, that your Majeſty would cauſe him to be re-eſtabliſh'd, by the Treaty of Peace, in all his Principality, in the Condition as it now is, and in all the Rights which he enjoy'd before the War. Monſieur *Beverning* anſwer'd thereto, by Aſſurances in general Terms, That his Maſters, and the Pr. of *Orange*, really wiſh'd for a Peace; and afterwards enumerating ſome Particulars, he ſaid, That 'twas abſolutely neceſſary for the *States* to make one; that he ſaw a thouſand things which he diſlik'd, and ought to oblige them thereto: That, on the one ſide, the Emperor was fortifying himſelf, by Leagues: (being about to ſpeak of the Treaty of *Cologn*) That the *Spaniards*, on their ſide, were guilty of underhand Practices, and that his Maſters might, in the end, find themſelves abandon'd: That, in the mean time, he was very much troubled, that he had nothing to inform them, or the Province of *Holland*, to whom he had given Hopes of ſome Anſwer, as to the Commerce. To which I reply'd, by way of Diſcourſe, That the Demands he made, were too extravagant, to induce your Majeſty to believe, that his Maſters were diſpoſed, in good earneſt, for a Peace; and that the Advances of the Prince of *Orange* too manifeſtly appear'd, to tend to the Continuation of the War, and a ſtricter Union than ever with *Spain*. He ſaid thereupon, that he could aſſure me, that not only his Maſters were diſpoſed for Peace, but alſo the Prince of *Orange*, and that he could ſwear it upon his Damnation, which he repeated ſeveral times. I continu'd ſtill to tell him, by way of Diſcourſe, that that Prince, perhaps, made an Appearance of Sentiments of this ſort, to amuſe us this Winter,

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as they had done the laſt, and to ſpend the Time for treating of a Peace. Whereupon, he told me, that he was not of the ſame Mind as them, and added, that he knew what happen'd at that time: That they would then have laid every thing upon his Back, and charged him with the Negotiation; but that perceiving there was no Deſign to conclude any thing, he would not meddle therewith, becauſe he was not an Impoſtor; and the Prince of *Orange*, being engaged in wrong Methods, he, *Beverning*, would not have it thought that he had a Hand therein; but that at this time, the Caſe was otherwiſe: That that Prince had wrote a Letter to him of four Pages, with his own Hand, at the time of the raiſing of the Siege of *Charleroy*, which was a real Manifeſto againſt the *Spaniards*, and which he would cauſe to be printed, if they continue to give out (as they have done ſince that time) Invectives againſt the Honour of his Maſters, and that of the Prince of *Orange*. From that Letter he paſs'd to another, which, he ſaid, he receiv'd from him eight Days ago, and which was ſubſtantial; whereby that Prince inform'd him, that the greateſt piece of Service which he could ever be able to do him, was, to make Peace; and that he was enraged againſt the *Spaniards*. Thoſe were the Terms he made uſe of; and that if he had not the Intereſts of the *States* in View, he could wiſh they might loſe all the *Low-Countries*. After he had ſo fully explain'd himſelf, as to the Intentions of the *States*, and the Prince of *Orange*, to make Peace, he was about to enter into a particular Enumeration of Treaties; and in regard that the Anſwer we gave to the Memorial of that Prince, admitted of no farther Reply, he paſs'd to the Treaty of Commerce. But according to your Majeſty's Orders, I forbore entring into the Diſcuſſion of

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any Article, and contented myſelf only with ſaying, in general, That to demand a proviſional Treaty, was to demand Means to continue the War. Thereupon he ſaid, That ſince a proviſional Treaty was not lik'd of, he muſt let it drop, and that he would deſiſt from that Point; but that 'twas requiſite, at leaſt, to agree upon all the Articles of the Treaty of Commerce, without ſigning it; and that the Execution of it might be deferred for two Months, during which, the Affairs of the *Spaniards* might be debated. Whereupon, I took Occaſion to tell him, That that might poſitively prevent your Majeſty from explaining yourſelf to the *States*, as to the Treaty of Commerce; and would eſpecially concern them, to make ſeparate Treaties for them, and others at the ſame time for *Spain*. And I ask'd him, Whether he thought it conſiſted with your Majeſty's Grandeur, in the midſt of all your proſperous Succeſſes, to make an Agreement with the *States-General* in a Treaty, that that ſhould continue without Execution for ſix Weeks, and run a Hazard, leſt if at the ſix Weeks end, the *Spaniards* ſhould be averſe from Peace, the ſaid Treaty, which your Majeſty ſhall have made, ſhould remain void, and the *States-General* ſhould declare, that they will no longer abide by it? He added thereto, that 'twas requiſite for them honourably to get clear of the Engagement which they were under with the *Spaniards*; and ask'd me, Whether we had Power to ſettle a Barrier? and that they would inſtantly agree about one, if we would: That he ſhould not tell us the Sentiments of the *Spaniards*, becauſe he did not know them; but that we ſhould tell him thoſe of your Majeſty, and that he would acquaint us with thoſe of the *States-General*; and that when once the ſame ſhould be agreed on, the *Spaniards* would be oblig'd

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to ſubmit thereto, or they would abandon them. But foraſmuch as we have no Orders about that Matter, and only gave ear thereto, I took Care to advance nothing therein; only believing that your Majeſty would not think it amiſs, if without entring into any Engagement, I could make Advantage of any thing in that Diſcourſe, and diſcover the Sentiments of the *States*; foraſmuch as you always expreſſed to us, a Deſire to know them. Having only told him with this View, that they had often detain'd us with the like Diſcourſes, without explaining themſelves farther; this oblig'd him to demand of me, What we deſign'd to do? and to tell me, that as to *Artois*, it was requiſite to leave it to us entirely, with *Cambray* and the *Cambreſis*; that as to *Bouchain*, it might be demoliſh'd; that we ſhould ſurrender up *Valenciennes*, *Conde*, *Tournay*, *Aeth*, *Audenarde*, and *Courtray*, and that we ſhould quit the *Franche-Comte*, by reſtoring to the Prince of *Orange* the Eſtate that he has therein: That *Sicily* be reſtor'd, and that for *Maeſtricht* and *Limburg*, he ſaw no Difficulty upon that Article.

Sire, we well know, that in the preſent Poſture of your Majeſty's Affairs, you are very far from making Peace upon ſuch Conditions; but ſince we are ignorant of your Intentions, as to the Places you would retain, and thoſe which you would make an Exchange of; I only gave Attention, without running into any Particulars, not ſo much as by way of Diſcourſe. For this reaſon, I contented myſelf to tell him, that of the Places which he mention'd in the *Netherlands*, there were very many which your Majeſty would abſolutely retain; and that ſuppoſing you would part with ſome, it would be requiſite for him to procure others in exchange for them; and that beſides, he demanded ſo many, that your Majeſty

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would find yourself a Loser in a War, in which you was unjustly attack'd, and wherein you have made very many Conquests, which had cost you so many Millions of Money, and the Blood of so many Subjects. Monsieur *Beverning*, without answering thereto, said, That he had spoken clearly about the *Netherlands*, and that we should discourse to him after the same manner, touching *Lorrain*: That he plainly saw your Majesty would be willing to deliver it up, after having inflicted a small Punishment upon Prince *Charles*. And forasmuch as he continually persisted to get some Answer, I told him, to avoid doing it, that Prince *Charles* took such ill Courses, and observ'd a Conduct so opposite to what he ought to do, that he had put us even out of a Capacity of making any Answer to his Demands.

Monsieur *Beverning*, according to his Notion, and thinking to concur with mine, which was general, and signified nothing, said, That he was of my Opinion, as to that Point; that he always told the President *Canon*, that he was very much in the Wrong, when he thought to oblige us to give an Answer, and by causing his Proposal to be deliver'd to us by the Emperor's Ambassador, who gave him to understand, that we would never return any Answer thereto; and that if your Majesty was disposed to grant any Favour to Prince *Charles*, it was requisite that he himself should sue for it; and that he should refer himself solely to your Majesty's Pleasure; and that he ought not to think that you would do any thing the more, upon the Instances of the Emperor; or that you would suffer Prince *Charles* to believe, that the House of *Austria* had re-establish'd him, and that he was obliged to them on that account. This Affair pass'd on thus gently without any Reply. Afterwards, he told me, that that Prince

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the *Spaniards* were the two ſole Allies they had to manage; that the Emperor had loſt nothing; that his Maſters had not enter'd into any Obligation with him, nor with the Princes of the Empire, to maintain them in their Conqueſts. And he alſo added, as a very great Secret, that the *Spaniards* are not much concerned for the *Franche-Comte*, and that the Emperor only inſiſted, that it ſhould be kept for them; becauſe your Majeſty having thoſe Countries, with *Briſack* and *Alſatia*, you may go directly into the Hereditary-Countries. He ſaid alſo, that your Majeſty would meet with Difficulty on the ſide of the Empire, becauſe the *Swedes* have loſt a great deal; but if once the *States* were agreed in their Affairs with *Spain* and you, they need only forbear ſending Subſidies and Ships; and that your Majeſty cauſing an Army to appear in the Field, the *Swedes* would be ſuddenly re-eſtabliſh'd.

Sire, we thought this Declaration of Importance, in regard that all the Ambaſſadors, and the Nuncio's Auditor alſo, when they ſpoke to us about the Exchange of Places in *Flanders*, told us, at the ſame time, that it would be requiſite to give them up, for the Re-eſtabliſhment of the *Swedes*; whereas Monſieur *Beverning* ſaid not one Word to us of it, and aſſur'd us, that the *States* were not obliged to thoſe Princes.

In the Concluſion of the Diſcourſe, Monſieur *Beverning* offer'd to ſhew us the Letters of the Prince of *Orange*, whereby we ſhould ſee that nobody was more earneſtly deſirous of Peace, than he. And he intreated us fully to inform your Majeſty thereof, and if we could have a good Anſwer, and a ſpeedy one, he ſhould determine all Affairs with us in a ſhort time. He ſaid, he was even very much concern'd, that he had nothing definitive, as to the Commerce, to inform the

States of the Province of *Holland*; and that he ſhould be very glad to make good uſe of that Conjuncture; and before he left me, he ask'd me, Whether the News which was given out, was true, that 'tis propoſed to the Court of *England*, to cauſe a Ceſſation of Arms? To whom I anſwer'd, that we had heard nothing of it; but that the Peace would be as ſoon concluded as an Armiſtice, which would be alſo of no Effect, unleſs a very long one were agreed to. And he reply'd, That it was not their Intereſt, becauſe that during a long Truce, they would be obliged to continue firm to *Spain*, and that was what they were not diſpoſed to do; that they were deſirous once to diſengage themſelves with Honour, and that they would not enter again into any Engagement with the *Spaniards*.

This, Sire, is too tedious a Diſcourſe; but we thought we ought not to omit any thing in the Account which we ſend your Majeſty of it, to the end that you may give us your Orders thereupon, according as you ſhall judge it expedient for your Service.

What is contained above, with regard to Monſieur *Beverning*, is, Sire, the Recital of a Conference, which I, *d'Avaux*, had with him the Day before yeſterday, when I carry'd him the Anſwer to the Memorial of the Prince of *Orange*, and to the Propoſals he made us. And what follows, whereof we likewiſe give your Majeſty an Account, is the Subſtance of another Diſcourſe which the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning* had yeſterday with me *d'Avaux*, in an Audience which he deſir'd of me in form, and wherein he told me, that he had the Day before let ſomething ſlip out of his Memory, he was very deſirous to ſpeak to me of, which was, that to ſignify the good Intentions of his Maſters for Peace, and the Sincerity

rity wherewith he ſpoke, he was willing to inform us, that the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and *Spain* had earneſtly preſs'd him to obtain of the *States*, that they would farther engage for the next Campagne; but that he abſolutely refus'd them: That afterwards, the *Spaniſh* Miniſters made him another Demand, That he would ſtill put off the entring upon any Negotiation for ſome time; but that he gave them to underſtand, that they ought not to expect it; and that his Maſters would treat as ſoon as we would; ſaying, That he knew not what the *Spaniards* deſign'd to do with that Delay; that they deceiv'd themſelves therein; and that their Affairs are not in a Condition, ſo as they ought to let ſlip any Opportunities that offer: That he knew, nevertheleſs, that they flatter'd themſelves with a Notion, which he would inform us of, if we did not know it, *viz.* That they hope to cauſe the People of *England* to revolt from their King; and that for that end, they have reſolved to begin themſelves a kind of Rupture with *England*, by cauſing all the Effects of the *Engliſh* to be ſeiz'd; which they expect may occaſion ſome Diſorder there, and induce the King of *England* to declare againſt us: But that the *States-General*, and himſelf in particular, who know the Intentions of the King of *England*, were perſuaded, that that Project would not ſucceed, and that all that could happen from it, would be only a Civil-War, which they did not deſire, and much leſs the Prince of *Orange*: That Monſieur *van Beuning* gave them all this Intelligence, whom his Maſters had abſolutely forbidden by a Letter, which they wrote to him the 10th of this Month, to intermeddle at all in that Affair, which he ſaid was rais'd by ſome *Spaniards*, who are in *England*.

I heartily thank'd Monſieur *Beverning* for this Truſt which he repos'd in us, who added afterwards, That if the King of *England* wanted Money, we might be under ſome Apprehenſion; but that the Parliament having granted him a Supply for three Years, he would baffle the *Spaniards*, in caſe they ſhould endeavour to create him any Trouble, as being in a Capacity to take up Arms againſt them; and that with the Aſſiſtance he might receive from *France*, he would eaſily accompliſh his Deſign; ſince the *States* would not ſide with them, nor ever be concerned in that Affair. From thence paſſing to other Matters, he told me, That making Reflexion upon the Diſcourſe he had yeſterday with me, and conſidering that ſince we would not admit of a proviſional Treaty, and perhaps there would be a great many Difficulties in regulating the Tariff; a Thought came into his Head, which he would communicate to us: That his Maſters gave him no Orders about it, but that he knew they would conſent thereto, out of the Deſire they have to make Peace. This Notion is, that foraſmuch as your Majeſty has permitted the Fiſhery, by a Declaration without Contract, you would alſo allow Traffick in your Kingdom, by a Declaration, without making any Treaty with the *States*, who would do the ſame thing; and that thus, all the People would be Gainers thereby; becauſe on one ſide, the *Hollanders* would drive a Trade, and your Majeſty's Subjects would ſell their Wines and Merchandizes in this Seaſon of Vintage; and the Duties continuing thereby as before, your Majeſty would have what you deſire; to which he added, that his Maſters would not break off, even tho' your Majeſty ſhould not approve of that Expedient.

I anſwer'd thereupon, that this would be continually to give Money to the People of *Holland*, and that the Advantage would not be reciprocal, in regard that the *States* having no Enemies at Sea, they would manage their Commerce freely; whereas the *Spaniards* would diſturb our Merchants. Then he repeated again, That if your Majeſty would not accept of that Propoſal, his Maſters would not break off on that account; but that he made it with a good Intention, and with a Deſign to begin to give their People a Taſte of the Sweetneſs of Traffick, in order to make them the more earneſtly deſire Peace, for fear leſt they be deprived thereof.

He added afterwards, That he ought to declare one thing to us, to the end that we might have no cauſe to complain of him, and to object to him the concealing it from us; which was, that he could never conclude a Treaty of Commerce upon the Foot of the Tariffs of 1664, and 1667; becauſe then the Duties were advanced to ſo high a Degree, that their Merchants ſhew'd them, in the Calculation which they caus'd to be made thereof, that they were thereby a third part Loſers; ſaying, that when the laſt Impoſt was laid, they had a Deſign to break with the *States*; but that now, when your Majeſty was well diſpos'd to receive them into your Favour, they hop'd that both would be ſuppreſs'd.

I reply'd again to him, that I could aſſure him, your Majeſty would never conſent to put things on the Foot of 1662, which oblig'd him to tell me, that then it was to no purpoſe for him to think of a Treaty of Commerce; and that the *States* deſign'd to make uſe of certain Expedients, which ſhould be advantageous to their People, as a Treaty after this manner: That is to ſay,

they would make their Treaty of Peace independently, and they would see afterwards, what Measures they were to take; still repeating, that he believ'd he could accommodate all Matters, if, at present, they had any Liberty, by a Declaration, or otherwise.

He said afterwards, That he had also thought on that which he told me the day before yesterday, touching the Affairs of *Spain*; that he still believ'd we ought to content ourselves with the *Franche-Comté*, and told me over again all the same things, besides naming *Charleroy* in the number of the Places which he re-demanded; and telling me, that the *Spaniards* were resolved to insist on *Quesnoy*, but that he made no Demand as to that Place. I judg'd that he talk'd again of the Affairs of *Spain*, only to mention *Charleroy*, which he had apparently forgotten. I also told him, that notwithstanding he had made extraordinary Proposals the day before yesterday; your Majesty would be much more surprized, when you perceiv'd, that instead of diminishing, he had augmented them. I told him farther, that *Charleroy* was one of those Places which could not reasonably be demanded, because it was not so much for the Security of the *Spanish Netherlands*, as to afford them Means to enter *France*; and gave him to understand in general, as to the others, all that I said to him before, in the former Conference. Upon which, he reply'd to me, That we should still enjoy Places very considerable, by leaving to us all *Artois*, which completes a whole Province; all the *Cambresis*, which made another; and the *Franche Comte*, which the Ambassadors of the Emperor absolutely pretend may be demanded again. That they speak for *Spain* and for

for Prince *Charles*; and that when your Majeſty ſhall vouchſafe to grant to both, what they thought reaſonable, the *States* would diſcourſe with him in ſuch a manner, as to diſpoſe them to make Peace. I told him, That this was not a poſitive Aſſurance, to make theirs a ſeparate one; and that he ſaid nothing upon the too great number of Places. To this, he return'd, That that was enough, and perhaps too much to ſay to a Perſon, from whom he could not obtain the leaſt Promiſe, upon any Article; but that he hop'd, when we had written to Court, we ſhould have ſuch an Anſwer, that your Majeſty would vouchſafe to do the *States* in general, and him in particular, the Honour of permitting us to enter upon Conferences, as to the Places in *Flanders*. And when I repreſented to him, that it was hazardous ſo make ſo open a Declaration, after this manner, in an Affair which, perhaps, would be of no effect; he told me, That, indeed, Accidents might fall out therein, as well as in every thing elſe, which might render all their Projects fruitleſs: But that he deſir'd us to write to your Majeſty, that he would forfeit the Honour of your Eſteem, which was the thing that he held moſt dear in this World, if he deceiv'd you; or if the *States-General* had a Deſign to do it: That he could ſay the ſame thing, as to the Prince of *Orange*, from whom he receiv'd a Letter eight Days ago, (as he told us before) and that four Days ago, he receiv'd another from the Penſionary *Fagel*: That thoſe who ſaid, that Prince was engaged for another Year, were either the *Spaniards*, who would render him ſuſpected; or Perſons ill informed; and that he very well knew, that they would not deceive us, nor him neither: That he ſhould

very ſhortly find it out; and that ſo ſoon as he had diſcover'd it, he would give us his Word, as a Man of Honour, That ſince he has no Office in the State, and only reſides here, to oblige the Prince of *Orange*, who deſir'd it of him, he would retire within a Quarter of an Hour after, to his Country-Houſe, and never ſet Foot again in *Nimeguen*: But that this was what we ought not to apprehend; and that he ſpoke ſo frankly to us, to give us to underſtand, that when we have your Majeſty's Orders, we may eaſily treat of Peace, and conclude it. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *September* 20. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; your Letters of the 7th and 10th inſtant, only contain two Points, upon which I am to return you an Anſwer, *viz.* one which relates to the Viſit you made to the Biſhop of *Gurk*, the Emperor's firſt Ambaſſador: The other, the Memorial that was deliver'd to you by Monſ. *Duker*, concerning the Intereſts of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*. In order to make Anſwer to the firſt, I ſhall tell you, that even as I have approv'd, that the Viſits which the Ambaſſador of *Spain* gave that of the Emperor, were look'd upon as of one and the ſame Houſe, and without conſequence, not only by the Pope's Example, but likewiſe by the Declaration thereof, which they put into his Hands; I think it convenient, that you ſhould treat in the ſame manner, and with the like Precautions, with the Emperor's firſt Ambaſſador: I think it alſo of ſome Advantage, that he is diſpoſed, after that manner, to ſeparate from his two Collegues; becauſe by viſiting you in the Rank which is due to you, he ſeems to approve your Refuſal of their Viſits, when they have to render'd you due Reſpect.

As to the Memorial which Monſieur *Duker* put into your Hands, you may ſee, that the Subſtance of his Demands is altogether like the Writing which was drawn up here by the Biſhop of *Straſburg*, and which I have ſent to you. All the reſt

of the Preamble, which he has added thereto, may be very indifferent: It had, nevertheleſs, been better, if he had communicated it to you before, and the Biſhop of *Strasburg* had referr'd it to you, to leave out, or add what you thought proper therein: Since the Subſtance of it is good, and that Writing is not your Work; the Errors of the *Latin*, or any other Expreſſions ſomewhat harſh, will only be imputed to him, who is the known Author. However, you may gain this Advantage by theſe Propoſals, That they will give you cauſe to demand an Anſwer thereto, at the ſame time that they preſs you ſo earneſtly to return one to the Memorial of Prince *Charles*.

I add nothing to what I have already ſent you Word, in order to notify to Monſieur *Beverning*, how favourable my Intentions are for his Maſters, either in reſtoring to them my former Amity by a Peace, or by inſtantly agreeing to favour their Commerce, when it ſhall be concluded. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Fontainebleau, *the* 20*th of* September, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *September* 20. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King is fully ſatisfied, as you may perceive by his Diſpatch, with your Conduct, in the Viſit you made to the Biſhop of *Gurk*. It alſo appears to me very Advantageous, that when you publickly refuſe to viſit the other Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, becauſe they have ſeen others before you, the Chief of the Embaſſy ſeems to condemn their Procedure, by taking a different Courſe.

The Biſhop of *Strasburg* wrote, without Doubt, to Monſieur *Duker*, as he told me, to regulate his Memorial, as you ſhall judge it moſt expedient; the whole is, that his Demands are ——— What was communicated to you, concerning the Biſhop of *Cologn*'s Treaty with the Emperor, is conformable to the Advice which the King has had thereof. This Addition will be inconſiderable in the Party of our Enemies, and ſuch a Support is not capable to relieve it. You know, Gentlemen, in what a bad Condition he is upon the *Rhine*; Prince *Charles* has follow'd the Deſtiny of the Prince of *Eyſenach*, and he is to paſs the *Spire* with the reſt of his Army, which has paid dear for advancing as far as the Frontiers of *Champagne*.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *September* 21. 1677.

SIRE,

WE have receiv'd the Diſpatch wherewith your Majeſty honour'd us of the 13th inſtant: But foraſmuch as we gave ourſelves the Honour to inform you, by our laſt Letter, of ſomething certain of the Sentiments of the Prince of *Orange*, as to Peace, and the Deſire which Monſieur *Beverning* made appear to us, to conclude the Treaty thereof; we thought ourſelves obliged to wait for your Majeſty's Orders, upon that Diſpatch, to act hereafter with Monſieur *Beverning*, in conformity to your Commands.

Your Majeſty perceives alſo by the ſaid Letter, that Monſieur *Beverning* is very much alarm'd with the Leagues of the Biſhop of *Munſter*, with the Elector of *Cologn*, and the Duke of *Newburg*; ſince that Miniſter acknowledg'd, that 'twas a League which the Emperor deſign'd to make, in order to enable him to maintain the War independently from the *States-General*, and without having any need of their Succours. Foraſmuch as we have communicated to him, what we could get of the Articles of that Treaty; we ſhall continue hereafter to inform him thereof, if any thing more particular comes to our Knowledge; and we ſhall omit nothing, in order to make a good Uſe of every thing, that we think may be Advantageous to your Majeſty's Service. We are, with all manner of Submiſſion and Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *September* 21. 1677.

SIR,

WE have given ourſelves the Honour to ſend you what we have been able to get of the Biſhop of *Munſter*'s Treaty with the Duke of *Neuburg* and the Elector of *Cologn*; if we can have an entire Copy thereof, we will not fail to ſend it to you.

Upon what we declar'd to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, that the Advantages which they had induced the King to hope for, from the Engagement of the Elector of *Saxony*, were not ſo conſiderable, as what they told us thereof, according to the Informations which Monſieur *Puffendorff* gave them of it; Count *Oxenſtiern* came to us this Morning, to bring this Letter; and tho' it ſays nothing certain, even as we gave him to underſtand, but on the contrary, rather confirms what we ſaid before; he nevertheleſs deſir'd us to ſend it to you. We thought ourſelves obliged to do it, Sir, tho' we are perſuaded you are perfectly acquainted with that Affair. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

Letter

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *September* 24. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; The Diſpatch you wrote to Me of the 14th inſtant, gives Me a true Account of two Conferences which one of you had with Monſieur *Beverning*: I obſerve with Pleaſure, the good Intentions which that Miniſter continues to declare for Peace, and the Prince of *Orange*'s Diſſatisfaction with the *Spaniards*, which appear'd throughout the Diſcourſes: But foraſmuch as he enquir'd farther than he has hitherto done, into the Conditions upon which he believes that I may make Peace with *Spain*, or enable the *States* to treat ſeparately, if *Spain* be unreaſonable; I have thought fit to put you into a Capacity of anſwering, as to the Overtures which he has made you.

For that end, I would have you tell him, That wiſhing with as much Sincerity as I do, to be able to reſtore my former Amity to the *States General*; I have obſerv'd with Satisfaction, the Aſſurances which he gave you of the ſincere Deſire they have to make the neceſſary Steps, in order to attain thereto: That he has already heard, that I am not averſe from a Treaty of Commerce, which he believes to be of ſo great Benefit to their State; and that he might perceive by your Anſwers, that I am very well diſpos'd, to agree about the Articles of the Treaty of 1662, on that Account: That as to the Point, which he maintains with ſo much Inſtance, that I would fix the Impoſts, which

which were raiſed upon the Merchandizes of *Holland*, on the ſame foot as they were in that Year; he ought eaſily to comprehend, that ſuch a Stipulation cannot enter into a Treaty: That the Right of laying Duties, according to the Prince's Pleaſure, upon the Merchandizes which are imported into, or exported out of a State, is ſuch an unalienable Demeſne, and ſuch a Proof of Sovereignty; that to enter into Obligations on this occaſion, by a Treaty, would be to prejudice it: That conſequently, I cannot engage Myſelf to thoſe Articles; but in caſe the *States* reſume the ſame Contracts with Me, as they had during ſo long a ſpace of time; they may promiſe themſelves all manner of Proofs of my Friendſhip, and that I would even very gladly give it them, in a Point, which they judge ſo important to the Service of their State. You perceive my Intention is, That ſo as you do not enter into any Engagement upon that Affair, you repreſent to Monſieur *Beuning*, all the Advantages which may redound to his Maſters, when they ſhall put an end to a War, which lies heavy upon them, and repoſe an entire Confidence in my Protection: After you have ſpoke to him in this manner, concerning their particular Intereſts; I think it expedient that you ſhould enter with him upon thoſe of *Spain*, and that you alſo examine the Conditions he propos'd to you, in order to form that Barrier, which they think ſo neceſſary in the *Low-Countries*, as well for the Security of *Spain*, as that of *Holland*: It will be eaſie for you to let him underſtand, That I have put in the number of the firſt extravagant Propoſals, which are uſually made without a Deſign to obtain them, in the firſt Overtures of Treaties, ſo many and ſuch important Places as he demanded, that I ſhould deliver up to the *Spaniards*: But that to reduce

them to an exacter Diſcuſſion, I am willing to treat of each of them in particular: That ſince he ſeeks to ſecure the Countries which are left to *Spain*, and the Neighbourhood of *Holland*, I ought alſo to provide for the Safety of my Frontiers.

I do not ſpeak of *Cambray*, *Aire* and *St. Omer*, becauſe he himſelf has declar'd they ought to continue in my Poſſeſſions; but I would have you give him to underſtand, That the Places of *Bouchain*, *Conde*, *Valenciennes*, *Tournay* and *Courtray*, are no leſs neceſſary for Me; I cannot part with one of thoſe four, which are ſituate on the *Scheld*, without expoſing to my Enemies, *Artois*, and my Conqueſts in *Flanders*, on the hither ſide of that River, which have been yielded to Me by the Treaties of Peace, and ſhould leave my own Territories expos'd, while I ſecure thoſe of my Enemies. *Courtray* is in the ſame Circumſtances with reſpect to *Liſle*, and I cannot deliver up that Place to *Spain*, without entirely laying open *Liſle*; which for its Strength and Riches may be accounted the Capital City of what I poſſeſs in the *Netherlands*. If Monſieur *Bevering* is willing to make thoſe Reflexions, he will find without doubt, that I cannot think of abandoning any of the Places, Part whereof was yielded to Me by the Treaty of *Aix-la Chapelle*, and the other acquir'd by the Juſtice of my Arms, in a War which *Spain* declar'd againſt Me.

But in order to give him to underſtand, That while I am willing to provide after this manner for the Security of my Frontiers, my Intention is, not to grant any favour by a Treaty of Peace, to thoſe which are left to *Spain*, and not to contribute to the Deſire which the *States* expreſs, for the leaving ſome Barrier, which may ſeparate them from *France*; I am willing that you ſhould tell him, That I am not averſe from ſome Exchange:

That notwithſtanding the extreme Importance, which the Places of *Charlervy*, *Audenarde* and *Aeth* are to Me; yet I am willing that they ſhould paſs into the Hands of the *Spaniards*; and that by depriving Me of the Advantage which they give Me, to be always by them at the Gates of *Bruſſels*, I would conſent that they ſecure the *Spaniards* againſt the Uneaſineſs, which they are under, for the Capital of their State. But at the ſame time, that I in this manner promote their Conveniency, I expect that they ſhould grant Me elſewhere for thoſe Places, an Equivalent which may be equally commodious for Me, ſuch as I may require, and which alſo covers the Frontiers of my Kingdom.

You will not have much Trouble to tamper and inſinuate to Monſieur *Beverning*, how far I contribute by this Overture, to the Good of Peace; ſince I cannot diſpoſeſs myſelf of three Places of the greateſt Importance, which have been yielded to me by a ſolemn Treaty, and which I have fortify'd with ſo great Expence. I do not ſpecifie to you in particular, what ſhall be the Equivalent I have to require: 'Tis ſufficient that you tell Monſieur *Beverning*, That I deſign to proportion it to what I quit, and that it may be equally convenient for my Frontier, and my Territories. You will have ſo much the leſs cauſe to diſcourſe with him, as to the Chapter of *Lorrain*; in regard that he himſelf declar'd to you, That he was of Opinion, that Prince *Charles* ſhould apply directly to you, and put himſelf in a Capacity to hold of me, what he can hardly recover by any other Method.

As for the reſt, you need not enter too far with Monſieur *Beverning*, into the juſt Diſſatisfaction, which the Prince of *Orange* expreſſes againſt the *Spaniards*: And ſince he is very much in the Intereſt

of

of that Prince, you ought to take Care to let him know, That the Re-eſtabliſhment in his Lands and Eſtate will not be the greateſt Advantage he'll find in Peace; ſince it will at the ſame time reſtore to him the Amity I formerly manifeſted towards him, as I always did towards his whole Family. Laſtly, make uſe of the Orders which I give you, to let Monſieur *Beverning* be ſenſible of the Truſt I repoſe in him, by declaring my Sentiments to him, as to all the Propoſals which he made you.

Foraſmuch as Monſieur *Beverning* did not touch upon the Affairs of *Germany*, I only deſire, that you would cauſe him to take Notice, That you do not diſcourſe in particular of the Intereſts of *Sweden*; becauſe I always deſign that all things with reſpect to that Crown, and every thing which concerns the reſt of the Empire, be put into the Condition they ought to be, according to the Treaty of *Weſtphalia*; and that conſequently, that King may be entirely re-eſtabliſh'd in what appertains to him. For what remains, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Fontainebleau, *the* 24*th of* September, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *September* 24. 1677.

Gentlemen,

I Have nothing in particular, to add to the Diſpatch which the King has written to you: It amply informs you of His Majeſty's Intentions, and I am only to acquaint you with the News of the Paſſage of the King's Army under the Mareſchal *de Crequi*, on the other ſide the *Rhine*; while the Enemies have amuſed the whole Empire, with falſe Hopes of ſeeing the Emperor's Arms prevail on the higher ſide of that River; they ſee that the March of Prince *Charles* as far as *Mouzon*, ſerv'd only to ruin his Army, and that that of the King, as fine and ſtrong as ever, is advancing farther, to make an Appearance in the Heart of *Germany*.

Things do not ſucceed in *Flanders*, with leſs Glory to His Majeſty's Arms. Since the Raiſing of the Siege of *Charleroy*, the Enemies are only employ'd in conſuming their own Country, and the Campagne will end in this manner. I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *September* 24. 1677.

SIR,

WE have no Account which deſerves to be tranſmitted to you, by this Poſt. The Nuncio and Sir *Lionel Jenkins* came to demand an Anſwer of us, as to the Affair of *Lorrain*; and gave us to underſtand at the ſame time, That the Preſident *Caron* had made them that Inſtance, on his part, without cauſing his Memorial to be preſented by the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, as he had hitherto done; we obſerv'd on our part, the ſame Conduct, as we always did in this Affair; and inſiſted, That the Emperor's Ambaſſadors and others might acknowledge the Envoy of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, whoſe Full-Power hitherto they had not been willing to receive, nor admit his Viſit: Wherefore, we ſhall confine ourſelves thereto, till we have an Anſwer to the Memorial of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, which we have ſent you. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *Sepsember* 28. 1677.

SIR,

FOraſmuch as nothing has happen'd in our Negotiation, ſince the laſt Letters we gave ourſelves the Honour to write to the King and you; this is only to inform you, of the Difficulties that have ariſen upon the Account of Ceremonies, and which have hitherto hinder'd Count *Anthony*, the firſt Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, from notifying his Arrival. It appears to us, by ſeveral Diſcourſes which Monſieur *Hoeugh* his Collegue, and Madam *Hoeugh* have held, That he has a Deſign to take an Advantage, from the ſmall Diſtance there is from his Houſe to that of the firſt of us, to inform us firſt, to receive our Viſit before that of the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, and to return it to us in like manner. We ſhall endeavour to get more certain Aſſurances thereof, before we take our Reſolutions, on what relates to the Mediation, the Privilege whereof we believe it is His Majeſty's Intereſt to maintain; and ſo much the rather, becauſe if Sir *Lionel Jenkins* ſuffers the ſame to be prejudiced, by allowing of ſome Expedient, to permit the Emperor's Ambaſſadors to go before him, as his Weakneſs makes us fear; we ſhould be oblig'd, either to ſuffer a Diſtinction between the *Germans* and us, too prejudicial to His Majeſty's Dignity, or to refuſe hereafter to the Amdaſſadors

of

of *England*, the Honours which we have conſented hitherto to pay to the Mediation; and only to refrain ſeeing the ſaid Count *Anthony*, becauſe he had ſeen Sir *Lionel Jenkins* before us: So that, Sir, to avoid both thoſe Inconveniencies, we thought ourſelves oblig'd to encourage Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, by inducing him to hope, That notwithſtanding the Satisfaction which Count *Anthony* may give us, we ſhould not viſit him, unleſs he Sir *Lionel Jenkins* had an Aſſurance, to be viſited before the Emperor's Ambaſſadors. This has produc'd hitherto part of the Effect, which we expected therefrom, in regard that the ſaid Sir *Lionel Jenkins* has not admitted of any Medium, to ſuffer the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor to go before him; but foraſmuch as he did not preſume to give an abſolute Negative, and in all Appearance, has repreſented, That he would write thereof to the King his Maſter; all things will continue yet in Suſpence, and perhaps afford us time to learn the King's Intentions, upon the Caſes which may fall out. The firſt which admits of no Difficulty would be, that Count *Anthony* inſtead of ſtaying for the Viſit of Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, might go to viſit him firſt in Ceremony, as the *Engliſh* deale at *Cologn* with the *Swediſh* Mediators; and that then he ſhould receive the Viſit of the Emperor's Ambaſſadors and us, then that of the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* and others. The ſecond is, that being unwilling to give Satisfaction to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, in ſpite of the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, he offer'd to viſit us immediately after them: Upon which, we have juſt now told you, Sir, the Inconveniencies, and the Engagement into which we enter'd towards the ſaid Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, to avoid them. The third Caſe, and the moſt perplexing to us, was, that the ſaid Sir *Lionel Jenkins* had Orders to content himſelf to be viſited, immediately after the

Emperor's

Emperor's Ambaſſadors; and that for the reſt, they offer'd to viſit us before the *Spaniards*, and all other Ambaſſadors of the Kings. The laſt was, that the ſaid Count *Anthony* contented himſelf with the Viſits which he made *Incognito* to his Allies, and that he receiv'd them in the ſame manner, and refus'd to have any other Correſpondence with us, than that of ſeeing us in publick Meetings, held at the Ladies Houſes: In which caſe, he pleas'd, Sir, to notifie to us, whether His Majeſty deſires, that we ſhould give him to underſtand, that we cannot permit him to be there, when he lives near one of us.

Monſieur *Hyde* arriv'd Yeſterday in the Evening; but foraſmuch as there are grounds to believe, that he will inſiſt, and with reaſon, that his Return is only a Continuation of the Embaſſy, which he before commenc'd, it will not occaſion any Intricacy.

Monſieur *de Barillon*, having inform'd us, of the little Succeſs which has attended the Artifice the *Spaniards* made uſe of, in order to induce the King of *Great-Britain* to believe, That *France* deſign'd to elude his Mediation, by a Negotiation at *Rome*, between the Duke *d' Eſtrees*, and the Marquis *del Carpio*; and that Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, without ſaying any thing of it to us, had written that the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, and *Don Pedro Ronquillo*, had given him the ſame Intelligence: We believ'd, that ſince it very much concern'd us, that that Miniſter and his Collegues ſhould not ſend ſo raſhly, for the future, to the King their Maſter, the Advices which our Enemies give them, or rather the Wiles they make uſe of, in order to give His *Britannick* Majeſty ſome Suſpicion of the Procedure of *France*; it was expedient to tell him (as we did Yeſterday) after having repeated to him, all the Reaſons which we have to prefer the Mediation of the King his Maſter

Master, before any other, we hop'd from his Integrity, that he would vouchsafe to inform himself of us, of what might be said hereafter by our Enemies, to the Prejudice of the Sincerity of His Majesty's Intentions, as we consented; also what he should do with the Ministers of the Allies, as to Reports advanc'd by us, relating to them; giving him to understand, That by this means, he might add to the Notice which he should give to the King his Master, the Confession or Contradiction of the Parties, and the Arguments which both sides may alledge, to shew either the Probability or the Impossibility of the Fact. Altho' he answer'd us very honourably; nevertheless, if His *Britannick* Majesty does not declare to him that he thinks the Conduct we desire of him reasonable; he may continue to act as he has done: For which reason, we have written thereof to Monsieur *de Barillon*, to the end that he may obtain the Approbation of our Arguments, where he now is. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *October* 1. 1677.

SIRE,

THE Diſpatch with which Your Majeſty was pleas'd to honour us, of the 24th *ult.* having capacitated us to return a poſitive Anſwer to the principal Propoſals, which were made us by Monſieur *Beverning*; we gave him to underſtand, That in the firſt Place, Your Majeſty being willing to agree about the Articles of the Treaty of 1662, which regulate Navigation and Commerce, between your Subjects and thoſe of the *States General*; it was ſufficient to renew them in that of Peace, which we make, without adding any thing thereto; and we made uſe of all the Arguments, which Your Majeſty repeated to us by the ſaid Diſpatch, to convince him, that the fixed Rate, which he requires of the Duties laid upon the Merchandizes of *Holland*, can in no wiſe be ſtipulated in a Treaty: We alſo inculcated to him (as far as we ought) the happy time which the *States General* may expect from Your Majeſty's Amity, and all the Advantages which would redound to them, both as to their Commerce, and every thing that relates to the Benefit of Government, when they put an end to a War, which ſorely oppreſſes them, and place an entire Truſt in your Protection. He own'd to us, That nothing could be more advantageous to his Maſters, and the Prince of *Orange*, than to re-enter into Your Majeſty's good Favour; and that if they

once

once reſume the ſame Contracts, as they had formerly, there would be no need to fear, leſt they ſhould ever depart thence of their own proper Motion: But that they could not be ſaid to regain the Honour of Your Majeſty's Friendſhip, unleſs Your Majeſty would make them ſenſible of the ſame Effects of it, as they enjoy'd heretofore: That their Merchandizes which before the Year 1662, paid only three Livres Duties, pay now as much as eight Livres: That thoſe Impoſts cannot be kept up, without a total Inhibition of their Commerce, upon which it is impoſſible to eſtabliſh a good Correſpondence; That his Maſters did not deſign to take away from Your Majeſty, the Liberty of augmenting the Impoſts, when you judg'd it expedient; but that if you would explain yourſelf only, as to the Favour you deſign'd to do them, he would find out Expedients to ſecure it, without ſtipulating any thing in the Treaty, which may in the leaſt prejudice the Rights of Sovereigns: That after all, a Treaty of Commerce was entirely needleſs, unleſs Your Majeſty would be pleas'd to make ſome Abatement, in the exceſſive Rate of the Duties laid upon the Merchandizes of *Holland*; ſo as it might be made appear for the time to come, that the Merchants may reap ſome Profit, by carrying them into *France*: That he deſir'd us alſo, to write of it to Your Majeſty, and to know what certainly he may promiſe the *States-General*, and what Diminution you are willing to grant of your own accord, and without Stipulation in a Treaty: That as to the Impoſt of 50 Sols *per* Ton; altho' Your Majeſty is not willing to grant the Suppreſſion thereof, yet we have at leaſt not taken from them all manner of Hopes, that you are willing to remedy, by ſome good Regulation, the Frauds whereof they before complain'd to us, and which are no

leſs

leſs detrimental to their Traffick, than the Augmentation of the Impoſts. We only made Anſwer to thoſe preſſing Inſtances in general Terms, according to Your Majeſty's Orders, ſimply repreſenting to him, That there is no Treaty which *France* ever made with the *States-General*, wherein the Rates of the Duties laid upon Foreign Merchandizes, were fix'd: That therefore the Demand he made of us, was an entire Innovation, and would have Conſequences too prejudicial for Your Majeſty to be able to grant it; but that the *States-General* ought to confide in the Honour of Your Amity, and in proceſs of time, they would find a Benefit therein.

We even promis'd him to write again to Your Majeſty, for a new Regulation, as to the Raiſing of the Duty of 50 Sols *per* Ton, in order to appeaſe by ſuch Hopes, the Vexation he made appear to us, becauſe he could not obtain any thing of the Abatement which he deſires of the Impoſts.

Afterwards, we proceeded to examine the Conditions which he propos'd to us, for forming a Barrier, which he continually aſſerts to be as neceſſary for the Security of *Holland*, as for the Preſervation of what *Spain* remains yet poſſeſs'd of, in the *Netherlands*. We intimated to him Your Majeſty's Sentiments upon the whole, in the ſame manner as you preſcrib'd to us, and repreſented to him (as much as we ought) the Importance of the Places which you are willing to exchange, for the facile Advancement of Peace; and in a time, when the proſperous Succeſs of your Arms, the Retreat of your Enemies, and the almoſt certain Hopes of greater Advantages in the Continuance of the War, ought to oblige you to have regard to what may moſt incommode your Enemies; were it not that you preferr'd the Happineſs of *Chriſtendom*, before the proper Intereſts of

your

your Crown. We inform'd him alſo, of all the good Sentiments you profeſs to have, for the Prince of *Orange*, and how much he ought to expect from your Majeſty's Affection, when he ſhall put himſelf into a Capacity of obtaining it. We added, That foraſmuch as he knows better than any body, all the Diſcontent which the *Spaniards* give that Prince, we ſhould not tell him every thing thereof, that had fallen under our Cognizance; even although what had been reported to us, of their Ingratitude and Calumnies againſt that Prince, is extraordinary; and notwithſtanding the Extenuation that we might make thereof, would be look'd upon as an Aggravation: But that we would aſſure him, That the ſame had not at all diminiſh'd your Majeſty's Eſteem for the Prince of *Orange*, and that you are ſufficiently perſuaded, he has all the neceſſary Merit, to acquire a noble Reputation, if he adher'd to the ſame Party that his Predeceſſors always ſided with.

Monſieur *Beverning* told us, That before we enter'd ſeriouſly upon the Diſcuſſion of the Conditions, which may make Peace between *France* and *Spain*, he ſhould in the firſt Place be very deſirous to know, what your Majeſty is diſpos'd to do, in favour of the *States-General*: That however, he could not refrain telling us, that if your Majeſty only deliver'd up the Places of *Charleroy*, *Aeth* and *Audenarde*, into the Hands of the *Spaniards*; thoſe Places and all others in the *Netherlands*, in the Poſſeſſion of the *Spaniards*, might be look'd upon as loſt, by the firſt War which your Majeſty ſhall renew againſt that Crown: That it would be difficult to obtain of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, the Ceſſion of the *Franche Comte*: That the *Spaniards* may indeed conſent thereto; but that the Emperor ſtrongly oppos'd it; and that he was even at the

Point

Point of making a Treaty with others, to hinder them from yielding up that Province: He alſo ask'd us, what your Majeſty deſign'd to do for the Re-eſtabliſhment of the *Swedes*, and what Satisfaction you would give to Prince *Charles*. We anſwer'd him on both thoſe Points, according to your Majeſty's laſt Inſtructions; and we ſhall not trouble you with all the Debates we had, touching the Anſwers which that Prince's Miniſters demand of us, and the Inſtances we made in favour of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*; becauſe it would be only a Repetition of what we formerly wrote to your Majeſty, and to Monſieur *de Pomponne*: But with reſpect to the *Franche-Comte*, we gave Monſieur *Beverning* to underſtand, That there was no Treaty which can deprive your Majeſty of that Province, which you have ſo juſtly acquir'd by the Law of Arms; and conſequently, thus awarded by the common Conſent of the Princes of *Europe*, the greateſt Part of whom are agreed therein, and eſpecially the *States-General*, even as he himſelf declar'd to us. He is alſo of the ſame Sentiments, and we gave him to underſtand afterwards, That we never believ'd (as it is true) that your Majeſty would vouchſafe to conſent to the Exchange of *Charleroy*, a Place ſo conſiderable not only to incommode your Enemies, but even to defend and maintain all your Poſſeſſions on that ſide of the *Sambre* towards *France*. We alſo made him look upon *Aeth* as the beſt fortified Place in *Europe*, and in general, all thoſe three Places, join'd with *Mons* and *Namur*, and all the others which remain to the *Spaniards*, as the ſtrongeſt and ſureſt Barrier they could deſire, ſo long as they wouln continue on the Defenſive, and not attack, as they have done, contrary to the Faith of Treaties, the Territories which belong to your Majeſty.

This, Sire, is the Subſtance of our Conference with that Miniſter, and we agreed together, to ſpeak only to the Mediators, of what relates to Commerce, and to keep the reſt Secret: Nevertheleſs, Sire, it appears to us, by all the Diſcourſe of that Miniſter, That he has no Deſign greatly to promote the Negotiation with *Spain*, till he is aſſur'd of what relates to the Satisfaction of his Maſters, in the Affair of Commerce; and we believe alſo, that the Uneaſineſs which Count *Oxenſtiern* is under, for what paſſes between us and the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning*, may be an Obſtruction to us: For the former came to ſee one of us, this Morning, and told as a kind of Secret, That the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning* had given him to underſtand, that his Maſters deſign'd to treat ſeparately with *France* and *Sweden*; but that they would know before-hand, what Advantages they may expect from your Majeſty, by abandoning the Intereſt of their Allies; whether you would grant them the Barrier they demanded, and even commit to their Cuſtody the Places which give them the moſt Umbrage, till the *Spaniards* are agreed upon Conditions, with which your Majeſty may be ſatisfy'd. Foraſmuch as this Propoſal is very unreaſonable, we only made anſwer to it, by general Diſcourſes, as well upon the Firmneſs wherewith your Majeſty deſigns to inſiſt on the Re-eſtabliſhment of the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*, as upon the Intereſts of both, to reject all thoſe underhand Propoſals, which our Enemies make, only to give Jealouſie to the Mediators; even as we lately diſcover'd in the Affair of the Propoſals made by the Marquis *del Carpio* to the Duke *d'Eſtrees*: And finally, we ended this Diſcourſe, with very wide Arguments, wherewith it is to no purpoſe to fatigue your Majeſty, and with Thanks for that pretended Truſt: But there are grounds

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to apprehend that the Hopes Count *Oxenſtiern* gives our Enemies, that your Majeſty will remit Part of your Pretenſions, in favour of *Sweden*, will cauſe us to find a great many Difficulties in our Negotiation.

Monſieur *Duker* has not yet deliver'd his Propoſal, neither do we preſs him thereto; becauſe we are inform'd by Monſieur *Beverning*, That when we are diſpos'd to preſent it ourſelves, (if all the Allies are of his Opinion) they would make no Scruple to receive it, and return an Anſwer thereto, which would take away from us all manner of occaſion for delaying, any longer, to make ſome Anſwer to the Demand of Prince *Charles*: But foraſmuch as your Majeſty orders us, to preſent that Propoſal of the Biſhop of *Straſburg*, ourſelves; and you know better than we do, both the Conſequences of it, and what you have reſolv'd to do upon that Affair; it is our Buſineſs to execute, without delay, the Orders you give us. We are, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *October* 1. 1677.

SIR,

WE return Anſwer by our Diſpatch to the King, to thoſe we receiv'd yeſterday from his Majeſty and you, dated the 20th and 24th of *September*. You may judge, by the Account we give you of our Conference with Monſieur *Beverning*, that 'tis requiſite to allow him a little Time, to digeſt our Propoſals or Anſwers, and to know the Sentiments of Monſieur *Fagel*, and even thoſe of the Prince of *Orange*, who is to be ſpeedily at the *Hague*, if he is not already arriv'd there. It appear'd to us in that Viſit, that the Diſpoſition he expreſs'd in the laſt he made to one of us, ſome time ago, to deſiſt in caſe of Neceſſity, from a Treaty of Commerce, was apparently, by that Means, to oblige his Majeſty to grant ſome Abatement of the Duties of Importation: For no Demand can be urg'd with greater Heat than he did that yeſterday, which he repreſented to us as a Condition, without which there was no grounds to expect a good Accommodation between us. Nevertheleſs, we did not leave him the leaſt Hopes to obtain any thing farther on that Matter, than Aſſurances for his Maſters to receive hereafter, all manner of Proofs of his Majeſty's Friendſhip, when they are reconcil'd with him.

Monſieur

Monſieur *Hoeugh* told one of us yeſterday, that Count *Anthony* is ſtill in the ſame Perplexity, as to the manner of beginning his Viſits; that the Emperor's Ambaſſadors cannot ſo much as hear of the Propoſal, to render it to the *Engliſh* Mediator, before them; that the latter will not alſo loſe the Honour, which Cuſtom and the common Conſent of the Ambaſſadors of Kings, have conferr'd on them, by reaſon of Mediation; and that conſequently, the ſaid Count *Anthony* is oblig'd to wait for the Orders of the King his Maſter. He has propos'd, for an Expedient, a feign'd Abſence of the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and *England*, which is accepted by neither; afterwards, a Viſit *incognito* to the latter, which does not ſuit with them any more than us. He alſo told us, that 'tis deſign'd to ſatisfy us, in what concerns us; and upon that Aſſurance, we propos'd an Expedient, to viſit the Ambaſſadors of *England*, before he is viſited by them; then to receive the Viſits of the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, ours, and afterwards others; which ſeem'd to agree with the Ambaſſadors of *Denmark*, and would apparently ſatisfy the King of *England*, altho' his Ambaſſadors do not yet know his Sentiments, as to that Overture. But the Emperor's Ambaſſadors are ſo Scrupulous, that they reject all manner of Expedients. The Intereſts of his Majeſty, which admit of no Separation between his Ambaſſadors and thoſe of the Emperor, likewiſe concern all the other Ambaſſadors of Kings: But the *Daniſh* Ambaſſadors are afraid of diſpleaſing the Emperor, to whom they acknowledge themſelves very much obliged; ſo that that Difficulty will ſubſiſt long enough, to receive your Advice, as to what we gave ourſelves the Honour to write to you laſt Poſt. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing of our Letter, Monſ. *Hulſt*, Secretary of the *Dutch* Embaſſy, came to tell one of us, that the Anſwer we made yeſterday to Monſieur *Beverning*, afforded him no great Hopes of an Accommodation; ſince we gave him no Satisfaction as to the Abatement of the Duties laid upon the Merchandizes of *Holland*; and becauſe, with reſpect to the Frauds practis'd in the collecting of the Duties of 50 Sols *per* Ton, we have not yet receiv'd the Regulation which he has ſo long deſir'd; and that unleſs they are aſſured of an effectual Moderation of the ſaid Impoſts on their Merchandizes, they cannot enter into any Treaty of Commerce with us: That he left us to judge of the bad Effect this might produce among the *States-General*, when they meet together to agree about the Funds for the next Campagne; and that notwithſtanding the good Diſpoſition of the Prince of *Orange* for a Peace, he may change his Sentiments, when the Funds are ſettled; and the *States* being no longer Maſters of Money, ſhall have no more Means to oblige him to make Peace. We thought ourſelves obliged, Sir, to ſend you an Account of theſe Particulars; upon which the ſaid Secretary gives us to underſtand, that Monſieur *Beverning* will ſtay for an Anſwer, before he goes to the *Hague*, altho' he had a Deſign to ſet out this Week, if he could have ſomething more certain to acquaint the *States* with, as to Commerce.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *October* 5. 1677.

SIR,

WE have little to write to you by this Poſt. Altho' we inform'd you by the laſt, that we would, without Delay, put into the Hands of the Mediators, the Propoſals of Monſieur *Duker*, the Biſhop of *Strasburg*'s Envoy; we nevertheleſs judg'd it proper, at his Inſtance alſo, to ſtay till his Power was agreed on; the rather, becauſe this gives us longer time to anſwer the Propoſals of Prince *Charles*. Monſieur *Duker* deliver'd to us the preſent Memorial of the Biſhop of *Paderborn*, whereof we ſend you the Copy.

The Prince of *Orange* arriv'd the 29th *ult.* at *Honſlaerdyke*, and is preparing to ſet out, in four or five Days, for *England*. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *October* 7. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; the only Anſwer which I am to return to the Notice you gave me by your Letter of the 28th *ult.* concerns the Conduct you are to obſerve, in the Viſits which Count *Anthony*, the firſt Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, is to make at his Arrival in *Nimeguen*. I ought to believe, that Sir *Lionel Jenkins* will not be ſo eaſy as to deprive himſelf of a Rank, which is yielded to him as a Mediator, by an unanimous Conſent; and which authorizes him (without Conſequence) to be viſited before all the Ambaſſadors of the Parties concern'd. Therefore, I highly approve, that to confirm him in what he owes to himſelf, you propos'd not to viſit Count *Anthony*, if he viſited the Emperor's Ambaſſadors before him. It concerns *England*, as much as the Tranquillity of this Aſſembly, that what has been hitherto obſerv'd touching the Ceremonies, may not be violated. The Emperor's Ambaſſadors cannot be diſtinguiſh'd from others, without overturning an Order, which appears ſo neceſſary; neither can they eſtabliſh that Claim, without evidencing too manifeſt a Deſign, to breed Confuſion. You cannot be too careful in inculcating to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, what he owes to himſelf: But foraſmuch as, without Doubt, he will not make uſe of any Expedient, contrary to what has been practis'd hitherto, of his own accord; tis as it were impoſſible, that the Orders which he

he is to receive from the King his Maſter, ſhould not oblige him to deſire to be viſited before the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor. I have enjoin'd the Sieur *de Barillon* to ſpeak of this Affair to the King of *England*, to the end that he may order his Miniſters to maintain his Mediation, in all the Rank which is yielded to the ſame.

This induces me to believe, that you will not be obliged to the Neceſſity of refuſing Count *Anthony*'s Viſit; if when Sir *Lionel Jenkins* permits him to ſee the Emperor's Ambaſſadors before him, he ſhould viſit him before you. 'Tis nevertheleſs what you could not exempt yourſelves from, ſince if the Order which has been allowed for the Mediation, be once broke, you muſt refer yourſelves to that which is natural, and which admits of nothing between you and the *Imperial* Ambaſſadors.

As to the Expedients you propoſe, there would, without Doubt, be no Difficulty, that if Count *Anthony*, in Imitation of what was practis'd at *Cologn* by the *Engliſh*, firſt viſit Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, he receive afterwards the Viſit of the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, yours, and that of the other Ambaſſadors.

'Tis not ſo with the ſecond, as you obſerve, that in caſe the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* would not viſit firſt that of *England*, he receive without having ſeen him, the Viſit of the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, and yours afterwards. My Intention would be, in that Caſe, that by refuſing his Viſit, you declare yourſelves not only in favour of the Ambaſſador of *England*, but in favour alſo of the Rules of the Aſſembly, which would be violated, if the firſt Viſits were not given to the Mediators.

As to the laſt Expedient you propoſe, that Count *Anthony* contenting himſelf with the Viſits which he has made *incognito* to his Allies, and which he has, in like manner, receiv'd from them, repair to the publick Aſſemblies held at the Houſes of the Ladies, and which return one after another at one of your Houſes; there appears little Inconveniency therein, provided he does not notify his Arrival to any body, no, not even to the Mediators, that the latter may not diſcover any Diſcontent thereupon; and that ſo he acts purely as a private Perſon. But there is little appearance, that he will take this Method, and the King his Maſter will not permit the Chief of his Embaſſy to appear in ſo famous an Aſſembly, without all the Forms, and all the Ceremonies which have been obſerved, with reſpect to the other Ambaſſadors. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Verſailles, *the 7th of* October, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *October* 7. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King's Diſpatch which I ſend you, ſo amply anſwers that of the 28th *ult.* which you were pleas'd to write to me, that you may well judge I have nothing to add thereto. By this time, Monſieur *Hyde* is arriv'd at *Nimeguen.* Every body looks upon Sir *William Temple*'s Return as capable of creating you more Trouble; but the principal Obſervation is upon the Prince of *Orange*'s Voyage to *England.* He is expected there about the 15th inſtant. 'Tis not known what may be the Reaſon of his going thither; but it does not hitherto appear, that he has undertaken that Voyage, in concert with the Ambaſſadors of *Spain.*

The Campagne is ended on all ſides, to his Majeſty's Glory, and the Mareſchal *de Crequi* has fruſtrated the Hopes the *Imperialiſts* had conceiv'd of ſettling their Quarters on this ſide the *Rhine.* 'Tis to be wiſh'd, that the Ceſſation of Arms, which the Seaſon is about making almoſt naturally, may be prolong'd by your Diligence, and that the Peace might be your Work, during this Winter. Gentlemen, I am entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *October* 8. 1677.

SIR,

THE Viſit which the Nuncio has juſt made us, will take up the whole Contents of our Letter for this Poſt; or rather, we do ourſelves the Honour to write to you, to accompany the Memorial he has put into our Hands; which contains firſt, a Renewing of Inſtances in favour of Prince *Charles*; and ends with an Offer, to enter upon a Diſcuſſion of the Means which we ſhall judge moſt expedient, in order to attain ſpeedily to a Peace; which is properly to comprize in a few Words, all the Attempts that they have already made, to oblige us to ſpeak firſt, and to make ſome Propoſal.

The Mediators came alſo to viſit us; but we ſhall not have Time to give you an Account of it, till the next Poſt. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *October* 9. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d' Avaux*; foraſmuch as your Diſpatch of the 1ſt inſtant, which gives me Account of a Conference you had with Monſieur *Beverning*, ſignifies to me, that that Miniſter chiefly adheres to the Conditions which concern the *States General*, and has expreſs'd little Regard to treat on thoſe of *Spain*, till he ſhould be ſatisfied as to that Article; I thought myſelf obliged to put you into a Capacity of anſwering him more particularly, as to the Point of the Diminution of the Duties of Importation into my Kingdom.

For this Reaſon, and becauſe as he ſeem'd to wait for the Anſwer which I might make you, before he goes to the Aſſembly of the *States of Holland*; I think fit you ſhould tell him, I have obſerved, with Satisfaction, the Deſire he made appear to you, that his Maſters would re-enter into their former Amity with me: That I have been moved with the Aſſurances he gave you, that they deſign'd to reſume the ancient Contracts, which have been ſo advantageous to their Republick: That to afford them Proofs of my Affection, in what may concern the Welfare of their State, and even in that which relates to Commerce, which they look upon as the chief Baſis; I am willing to have Regard to the urgent Neceſſity they have repreſented to me, that I ſhould, in order to maintain it, diminiſh the Duties of Importation into my Kingdom.

Upon

Upon this Account, I think it convenient, that you ſhould aſſure Monſ. *Beverning*, that I am very willing, after the Peace, to remit to the Subjects of the *States-General*, the third part of the ſaid Duties, rated by the Tariff of 1667, which contain the Merchandizes which are manufactur'd in *Holland*, and which are uſually brought into my Kingdom by the *Dutch*. You ought to tell him this poſitively in thoſe Terms, but only by Word of Mouth; ſhewing him, at the ſame time, that nothing I am diſpoſed to do, as to that Point, in favour of the *States-General*, can be committed to Writing, nor enter into a Treaty, for the Reaſons which you have formerly laid down. You ſhould not omit neither to let him know, how conſiderable a Proof this is, that I am inclined to grant them my Affection; and you may continue to repreſent to him, that they may expect new Teſtimonies thereof, in all other Matters, when by a Peace they have fully re-eſtabliſh'd the ſincere Alliance, which they formerly were in with me.

Foraſmuch as Monſieur *Beverning* particularly touch'd upon that Article, and looks upon it as previous to the Diſcuſſion of the Conditions which concern *Spain*; you ſhould add nothing to the Overtures you have already made him, touching that Barrier on which the *States* ſo ſtrongly inſiſt, and ſtay till he himſelf (as 'tis likely) does reſume that Affair.

What I chiefly aim at herein, is to flatter the *States* by their own Advantage, and in ſome ſuch manner, to draw them off from the Engagement which they are under with *Spain*.

As to the Method of remedying the Frauds which they complain of, in the exacting of 50 Sols *per* Ton; Altho' I do not ſend you a poſitive Memorial of it, which cannot yet be got ready,

ready, nevertheleſs you may aſſure Monſieur *Beverning*, that my Intention is ſuch as he could wiſh for on that account; and that requiring only the Continuation of a Duty ſettled by the Treaty of 1662, I would give ſevere Orders to prevent the Exactions which may be practis'd by the Commiſſioners in the collecting of them. If when you receive this Diſpatch, you have not yet deliver'd the Biſhop of *Straſburg*'s Memorial to the Mediators; my Intention is, that you leave the Care thereof to Monſieur *Duker*. Perhaps the Emperor's Miniſters will make a Scruple to acknowledge his Miniſter; but 'tis therefore alſo that I have changed my Reſolution, becauſe it will afford me an Occaſion to drive farther off the Anſwers which they ſolicite for Prince *Charles*. For t e reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Verſailles *the* 9*th of* October, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *October* 9. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE laſt Diſpatch which the King wrote to you, amply ſhews you his Intentions, as to the Viſit of the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*; ſo that I have nothing, at preſent, to add thereto.

His Majeſty has vouchſafed to grant the Continuation of the Paſport which you deſir'd for Don *Ronquillo*'s Gentleman, and I annex it to this Letter. I am, Gentlemen, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *October* 12. 1677.

SIRE,

IN the ſame Audience wherein the Nuncio gave us the Memorial of the Allies, which we ſent by the laſt Poſt, he put into our Hands a Writing which concern'd the Intereſts of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*. We were very much ſurprized to obſerve therein, that we were charged with having declared to my Lord *Berkley*, and Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, that the Biſhop of *Strasburg* was no Ally of

of your Majeſty: But foraſmuch as the Nuncio went away before we had receiv'd the ſaid Memorial, and the Ambaſſadors of *England* were coming in, we were willing to wait what they would tell us, before we determin'd any thing. They were charged, Sire, with the ſame Writings, which put them into a very great Confuſion, occaſion'd (if we may venture to ſay it) by the Timorouſneſs of Sir *Lionel Jenkins*: For the Allies having told him before, about two Months ago, that he declar'd to them, the 20th of *January*, that we had made appear to him, that the Biſhop of *Strasburg* was not your Ally; and that Miniſter having found in his Precedent-Book the quite contrary; and that one of the principal Motives which made us inſiſt that Day on the Refuſal to inſert in the Powers, the Liberty of treating only for the Allies at preſent in War, was the Reaſon that that Clauſe would exclude us from treating for the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, who was an Ally of your Majeſty, and not in War; he indeed rendred the Teſtimony which he ought to the Truth of what we ſaid; but he did not do it with Force enough, to hinder the Allies from making uſe again of the ſame Arguments at this Inſtant, and from undertaking himſelf, to declare them to us. 'Tis true, Sire, that they gave him a Paper written throughout, and that he receiv'd it from their Hands, without reading it. He told us, then, he knew not what Propoſal to make uſe of, becauſe he would not give us a Writing, wherein he was ſenſible there was a Suppoſition ſo remote from Truth, and to which he could not even refuſe (in caſe we deſir'd it) giving a contrary Certificate, and to declare it to the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, as he had already done: But he was alſo apprehenſive, that he ſhould, by ſome Means or other, prejudice the

Mediation

Mediation of the King his Maſter, if he ſhould come from thence to the Extremities wherein he perceiv'd that they would engage him. We have already judg'd, Sire, by the Writing which the Nuncio gave us, and we diſcover'd ſtill better by the Diſcourſe of Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, that the Aim of the Allies was no other, than to put the Ambaſſadors of *England* under a Neceſſity of making Declarations, which altho' conformable to Truth, would nevertheleſs give them a ſlight Pretence to charge the Mediation of *England* with ſome Partiality. We thought, therefore, in order to pleaſe your Majeſty, to draw the Ambaſſadors of *England* out of the Briars, and to make them avoid the Snare which was laid for them and us alſo. In this View, Sire, we agreed with them, that we would go the next Day, to carry back to the Nuncio, the Writings which he gave us, by telling him, that we have nothing to receive touching the Intereſts of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, till his Miniſter was acknowledg'd, and his Power agreed to. And to the end that that Circumſtance which relates to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, may be no more repeated; we ſaid, that by rehearſing over again our firſt Declaration, that the Biſhop of *Strasburg* was an Ally of your Majeſty; we made a freſh Inſtance, to the end that his Miniſter might be acknowledg'd, as that of a Prince allied to your Majeſty ought to be; and that forasmuch as we were perſuaded the Emperor's Ambaſſadors would yield to that Inſtance; to ſhew, in the mean time, your Majeſty's ſincere Intention for the promoting of Peace, we did, from that Moment, put the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Strasburg* into the Hands of the Mediators, in order to be deliver'd to the *Imperial* Ambaſſadors, ſo ſoon as they have agreed to the Power of his Miniſter, and no otherwiſe; declaring, nevertheleſs,

leſs, that till that Miniſter be acknowledg'd, we would make no Anſwer to the Propoſals of Prince *Charles*.

This, Sire, is the Subſtance of what we told the Nuncio and the Ambaſſadors of *England*, to whom we likewiſe gave the Memorial of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*; which we thought we ought to do, to the end that the Ambaſſadors of the Allies may have no Colour for charging us with the Delay of the Peace, and ſaying, that we refus'd even to receive the Memorial from the Hands of the Mediators; ſo that we ſeem to forward the Negotiation, by giving in the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*. However, we do nothing over-haſty; ſince we give them only in Truſt, and they cannot be deliver'd, till the Powers of Monſieur *Duker* are agreed to; by which time, it will be requiſite, of neceſſity, to preſent them. Add to this, that that Memorial fully informs the Mediators of the Reaſons which the Biſhop of *Strasburg* may have to appear in this Aſſembly, in Quality of your Majeſty's Ally. We are, with a profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *October* 12. 1677.

SIR,

WE give ourſelves the Honour to ſend you the Memorial which the Ambaſſadors of *England* have preſented to us, on the part of the Allies. You will find therein, by certain Expreſſions ſomewhat harſh, that thoſe Mediators had not the Liberty to retrench what the Nuncio had the Power to leave out in his; and from thence, Sir, you may judge of the Difference which thoſe Gentlemen make between the two Mediators. The *Engliſh* Ambaſſadors are ſufficiently appriz'd thereof, and offended at it; they are, on the contrary, very well ſatisfied with us, and that we have freed them from their Perplexity, by paſſing over ſome things, which in reality are of no great Moment to us, but may be of Importance to them. We have alſo receiv'd from the Mediators of *England*, as a Secret, the Memorial which the Allies gave them, touching the Affair of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*; you may perceive, Sir, that the ſaid Biſhop of *Strasburg*, and in his Perſon, all the Sovereign Princes of the Empire, are treated as Vaſſals of the Emperor. Forasmuch as this Memorial was not preſented to us publickly, the Biſhop of *Strasburg* cannot make uſe thereof ſo openly, as of that which the Nuncio deliver'd to us: For altho' we return'd it to him; nevertheleſs, ſince the Biſhop of *Strasburg*'s Envoy had

had it for half a Day out of the Hands of the Nuncio himſelf, Advantage might be taken thereby, to make appear, what Juriſdiction the Emperor claims over all the Princes of the Empire. Upon this Account, the Envoy of the Biſhop of *Strasburg* deſigns to draw up a Memorial, whereof he will ſend you a Copy: He is to inſert therein, a Thought that came into our Heads, and which was to make appear, That the King having always maintain'd the Rights of the Sovereignty of the Princes of the Empire; it was to be fear'd, if the Emperor goes about to overturn them, and the Princes do not oppoſe it with greater Vigour than they have done, that they would put themſelves out of a Capacity to make for the future Alliances with any Prince, and that from this very Inſtant a Scruple would be made, to receive their Miniſters as thoſe of Sovereign Princes.

Sir, as to the Memorial of the Allies, it is altogether as eaſie to make anſwer thereto, as to the former, which they gave in: But ſince it does not tend any more than the others to Peace, as not only the *Engliſh* Miniſters, but even the Nuncio himſelf have acknowledg'd; perhaps His Majeſty will think it proper we ſhould neglect them, after the ſame manner; and that we ſhould ſtay till thoſe Gentlemen make us ſerious Propoſals, and upon which a ſolid Baſis may be laid for a good Negotiation.

Sir, the Civility which we ſhew'd to the Ambaſſadors of *England*, induc'd them to repoſe a Truſt in us, and ſettled a kind of ſecret Correſpondence between them and us.

Since the Writing of our Letter, they came to us each apart, to avoid giving too much Umbrage, and told us, They had Yeſterday given our Anſwer to the *Imperial* Ambaſſadors, who appear'd very much diſſatisfy'd, becauſe we would not receive

ceive the Memorial, touching the Biſhop of *Straſburg*; and that they intreated them to bring it back to us: That they had a long time refus'd it, for two Reaſons; the firſt, becauſe there was a Term in ſpeaking of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, *qui turpitudinem ſuam allegat*, which they could not ſuffer in a Memorial, which they were to preſent: That Anſwer was made to them, they were Terms us'd by a Lord to his Vaſſal; that they were made uſe of on the like occaſion, in the Avocatory Letters of the Empire; and that they could not change that Term. The ſecond Reaſon which they alledg'd, is, becauſe they were charg'd in that Memorial with ſaying what they have no remembrance of, and to which their Precedent-Book ſhews the contrary; That they do not know what the Allies may ſay, when the Mediators ſhall be oblig'd to inſert in the Margin of that Article, That their Regiſters verifie the contrary. Upon which, the Biſhop of *Gurk* anſwer'd them, that they might put in what they thought fit. This, Sir, confirms us more and more, and them alſo, in the thought that they would engage them to make that Step, in an Affair, which beſides is of no Conſequence, and this will alſo cauſe us to avoid it with more Circumſpection. Thoſe Gentlemen gave us Notice, That they plainly perceiv'd, that the Emperor's Ambaſſadors would claim hereafter, that ſuch only ſhould be treated with here as Allies, who were acknowledg'd at the time of the Date of the Powers; and that they were ſeconded in that Pretenſion, by the Ambaſſadors of *Denmark*, and by thoſe of the *States-General*; the firſt of whom would by that means exclude the Duke of *Holſtein* from the Negotiation; and the ſecond, the Duke of *Courland*; but this is a Propoſal, which cannot hold. At the Treaty of *Munſter*, it was inſerted in the Powers, Allies and Adherents;

Adherents; and not only thoſe that came in unexpected, while the Treaty laſted, but thoſe who chang'd their Parties, were alſo compriz'd under that Clauſe: And at this time alſo, if that Reaſon were valid, the Elector of *Cologn*, and the Duke of *Newbourg* could not be admitted into the Treaty, as being not from the time of the Powers, Allies of the Emperor; and 'twas only to avoid thoſe Tricks, that we inſiſted, the word *Allies* might be inſerted, without putting in the Allies at preſent in War: That it might comprehend in that Treaty, all the Princes who were at the time of the Signing, in either of the two Parties. Theſe, Sir, are almoſt the ſame Reaſons, which we ſhall alledge, when the matter ſhall be call'd in queſtion: In the mean time, we ſhall wait for the Nuncio, and the Ambaſſadors of *England*, who will come in Ceremony, two or three Days hence, to bring us that Anſwer; and we have already within a ſmall matter reſolv'd together, to keep to what caus'd us before to inſiſt, to have the Powers of the Envoy of the Biſhop of *Straſburg* acknowledg'd, without entring upon any thing that relates to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*; in order not to call in queſtion the Mediation of *England*. We are, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *October* 14. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; Foraſmuch as the particular Letter which you wrote the 5th inſtant, contains nothing conſiderable; I ſhall only impart to you my Thoughts, occaſion'd by the Memorial thereto annex'd, touching the Biſhop of *Paderborn*, and which Monſieur *Duker* deliver'd to you. There ſtill appears therein, ſome good Diſpoſition of that Prince, in favour of Me, and I am inclin'd to look upon, as a Mark thereof, the Intelligence which he gives Me, of the Meaſures the Emperor endeavours to take betimes with him, to ſecure by his Alliance, when he ſhould be Biſhop of *Munſter*, the League which he is ſetting on Foot upon the *Rhine*: But the more it will be true, that the ſame will be ſtrong or weak, according as a Biſhop of *Munſter* ſhould enter therein or not, the more I am apt to believe, it conduces to my Service, not to neglect the Overtures, which the Biſhop of *Paderborn* makes, and to engage him (if it be poſſible) from henceforth in my Intereſts, by reaſon he may be ſerviceable or prejudicial to Me, when after the Death of the Biſhop of *Munſter*, he ſhall be in Poſſeſſion of two ſuch conſiderable Biſhopricks in *Weſtphalia*.

For this reaſon, I deſire you would give him to underſtand, by Monſieur *Duker*, ſince he has truſted him with his Thoughts, That the Broils which have continu'd for ſome Years between the Empire

Empire and *France*, have not extinguiſh'd in Me, the Eſteem and Affection I always had for him; and that I would be diſpos'd to give him Marks thereof, either in private or publickly, according as he ſhall judge moſt convenient for his Intereſts; and to make at this very Inſtant, as it were, an Eventual Treaty with him, for the time when he ſhall ſucceed in the Biſhoprick of *Munſter*.

My Intention is not, that you ſhould explain yourſelves more clearly, as to what I am willing to do for him; nor whether I would require him to declare publickly for Me, which there is little Probability that he can do; or continue Neuter, to which 'tis more likely he will be inclin'd; nor with what Advantages I would have the Engagements accompany'd. 'Tis ſufficient to let him know, That I am diſpos'd to render him my former Amity, and that he may take proper Meaſures, either immediately, or for the time to come. If one may judge thereof, by his Inclination, which has always appear'd very remote from War, there is reaſon to believe, that he will prefer Repoſe and Tranquillity, before Arms and Action, which were the principal Employment of his Predeceſſor; and that therefore, he would eaſily be induc'd to continue Neuter; and perhaps, to be in a Capacity of maintaining himſelf therein, he would require ſome Subſidies of Me. But as I have already caus'd you to obſerve in this manner, ſo as no Inſinuation may be given him thereof, from you, by Monſieur *Duker*; it is ſufficient that you ſignifie to the latter, the Thought I have to make an Eventual Treaty with the Biſhop of *Paderborn*, to the end he may penetrate into his Sentiments, that he may give you an Account thereof, and that I may afterwards take my Meaſures, upon the Alliances which I make with him.

You may ſee by my laſt Diſpatch, That in order to flatter the *States-General* in the Intereſts wherewith they are moſt affected; I thought fit you ſhould tell Monſieur *Beverning*, only by Word of Mouth, That I would willingly remit to the *Hollanders*, after the Peace was concluded, a third Part of the Duties of Importation, ſpecify'd in the Tariff of 1667, which contains the Merchandizes manufactur'd in *Holland*, that are uſually imported into my Kingdom by the *Dutch*. At this Inſtant, when I make a farther Reflexion upon the Advantage I may gain, by drawing off the *States-General* from the Enemy's Party, by the Abatement of that Duty; I permit you to ſignifie to Monſieur *Beverning*, That I am willing to reduce it to one half of thoſe which are contain'd in the Tariff of the Year 1667: I deſire that in impartting to him this Piece of News, (which, without doubt, will be very agreeable to him) you would let him ſee farther, that I may according to the Conduct which his Maſters ſhall obſerve with Reſpect to Me, after the Peace, give them ſtill greater Marks of my Affection for them. Laſtly, by confining what I am willing to do for them, to this ſo conſiderable a Grant, you ſhould ſet no Bounds to their Hopes, as to what they may expect farther from my Friendſhip, when after the Peace is made, they ſhould put themſelves into a Capacity of meriting the Proofs thereof. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Verſailles, *the* 14*th of* October, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *October* 14. 1677.

Gentlemen,

I Only add to the Letter which the King writes to you, the conſiderable News of the Glory which His Majeſty's Arms have newly acquir'd in an Engagement of the Horſe not far from *Straſburg:* It was tedious and obſtinate on both ſides; but at laſt, the whole Advantage redounded to the King's Troops, and twenty five Squadrons, of which indeed thoſe of the King's Houſhold made a part, beat thirty of the beſt Troops of the Emperor's Army. Major-General *Haeren*, the Count of *Naſſau Saarbruck*, and ſeveral other Officers, were made Priſoners there. According to all Appearance, Prince *Charles* will ſpeedily be oblig'd to repaſs the *Rhine*, and retire to his old Quarters in the Empire. Gentlemen, I am moſt ſincerely entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *October* 15. 1677.

SIRE,

THE Report of the Prince of *Orange*'s Voyage into *England*, has very much alarm'd the Miniſters of the Allies: They ſpeak of it in their Conferences, with a great deal of Warmth, to Monſieur *Beverning*; and that Miniſter having aſſur'd them, That the ſaid Prince would never do any thing prejudicial to the Common Cauſe; Anſwer was made him, by *Don Pedro Ronquillo*, That if he thought as he ſpoke, he was the Prince of *Orange*'s Tool. Theſe Particulars, Sire, and many others, which it would be too tedious to enumerate to your Majeſty, ſufficiently make it appear to us, That that Voyage was not undertaken in concert with the Miniſters of *Spain*. Moreover, Monſieur *Beverning*, who was touch'd to the quick, with all the Reflexions that were caſt upon him, went eight Days ago to meet the Prince of *Orange* at *Soeſdyke*. We know not what Light he could get by that Journey; but we have been told, that he is come back from thence, very well ſatisfy'd. Neither do the Ambaſſadors of the Allies appear to us ſo diſmay'd; and tho' they are not yet without ſome Unealineſs, nevertheleſs, we obſerve in them a little more Calmneſs of Mind, than they had before. All theſe Reflexions, Sire, which we made on the different Sentiments of the Miniſters, who reſide here, have caus'd us to obſerve Monſieur *Beverning* more narrowly, in the Viſit we gave him Yeſterday, to endeavour to diſcover ſome-

ſomething of his Inclinations. We went Yeſterday to notifie to him, what your Majeſty order'd us by your Diſpatch of the 9th Inſtant; and we did not want Arguments, to make the beſt of what your Majeſty would do for the *States-General*, in being diſpos'd, after the Peace, to remit to their Subjects, the third Part of the Duties mention'd in the Tariff of 1667, which contains the Merchandizes that are manufactur'd in *Holland*: We alſo repreſented to him, as far as lay in our Power, every thing that the *States* might expect from your Majeſty's Affection, when, by the Peace, they ſhall have eſtabliſh'd a ſincere Alliance with you; ſince you are diſpos'd at this very Inſtant, to give them ſo conſiderable a Proof thereof: We likewiſe aſſur'd him, Sire, That your Majeſty's Intention is ſuch, as he could deſire it, in order to prevent the Frauds, which might be committed in the collecting of the 50 Sols *per* Ton. But, Sire, notwithſtanding all that we were able to tell him, we did not find in that Miniſter, all the Facilities which we met with formerly: He ſtarted to us many Difficulties, which we ſhall not acquaint your Majeſty with, becauſe they are not material, and we remov'd them immediately; but only with the two Principal, on which he chiefly inſiſted: The firſt relates to the Security, which the *States-General* may receive, that your Majeſty, after the concluding of the Peace, will abate ſomewhat of the Duties laid upon their Merchandizes. Whereupon, we put him in Mind of what he himſelf told us a Fortnight ago, That if once his Maſters knew to what Rate your Majeſty would reduce your Impoſts, he would find means to eſtabliſh it, by a ſure way, without inſerting it in a Treaty: And we told him, That when they had accepted, (as we doubt not but they ought to do) the Offer your Majeſty made them; we would every one of

us, on our part, find out Expedients, to give the *States-General* all manner of Security, as to that Point. Monſieur *Beverning* very much inſiſted, That this ſhould be inſerted in a private Article: He alſo propos'd, That they might have a Declaration from your Majeſty; but he propos'd it as a Perſon, who was as it were in fear of being taken at his Word; and without coming to a Concluſion upon that Head, he paſs'd to the other Difficulty, which relates to the collecting of the 50 Sols *per* Ton: He demanded upon that Article, ſomething that was Poſitive and in Writing; and told us, That he had not given an Account thereof to the *States-General*, for a long time, becauſe he always expected thereupon a Memorial from your Majeſty, on which they might take ſure footing.

Thus, Sire, the Diſcourſe we had with Monſieur *Beverning* amounted to this: He did not enter with us upon the Affairs of *Spain*, as he was wont to do; and far from declaring himſelf in his uſual way, upon any thing; he was ſo reſerved, that he only made direct Anſwers to what we ask'd him: He did not ſo much as mention the Prince of *Orange* to us, neither did he talk of his Intereſts, or his Voyage; neither did we believe that we ought to make mention of the ſaid Prince to him, in regard that we ſhould gain no Advantage thereby, and he might have believ'd, we ſhould have been uneaſie at it.

Laſtly, Sire, by the Fickleneſs of Monſieur *Beverning*, and the Perplexity wherein we perceiv'd him to be, we have reaſon to believe, that he has his Hands bound, till the Return of the Prince of *Orange*, and that he durſt not engage in any thing, till the Succeſs of that Journey is come to light.

Sire, we ſhall not fail exactly to obey the Orders your Majeſty honour'd us with, by your Letter

Letter of the 7th inſtant, touching the Viſit of Count *Anthony*. Let what will happen, they are ſo well concerted, that whatever he does, we ſhall act ſurely, and according to your Majeſty's Intentions.

Your Majeſty was inform'd by our laſt Diſpatch, That after having put off, till the 11th inſtant, the Execution of your Orders, to give in the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*; we thought at laſt we ought to do it that Day, for the promoting of your Service: But the Precaution we took, at the ſame time, to put the ſame into the Mediators Hands, on condition not to deliver them to the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, till they had acknowledg'd the Powers of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*'s Miniſter, puts us into a Capacity to do what is order'd us at this time. The Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, (as far as we can gueſs of them) are not diſpos'd to acknowledge that Miniſter; and forasmuch as the Delivery of the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, depends on that Recognition, as well as the Anſwers demanded of us, on the Affair of *Lorrain*; we can aſſure your Majeſty, That 'tis an Affair which is not ready to be determin'd. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *October* 15. 1677.

SIR,

THE Propoſal which we went to make yeſterday to Monſieur *Beverning*, by the King's Order, is ſo Advantageous for the Commerce of the *States General*, that we can only impute the Indifferency we found in that Miniſter, to the Uncertainty which he may be, at preſent, under, with reſpect to the Succeſs of the Voyage of the Prince of *Orange*; till the end whereof, he has apparently no Power to make any Reſolution. He nevertheleſs told us, that he would give us a Memorial upon the more poſitive Explanation of the King's Will, touching the Abatement of the Impoſts of 1667; becauſe he would fain know, whether that Expedient relates only to the five ſorts of Merchandizes, which he put into his Memorial; or whether it may be extended farther. We gave him to underſtand, that the King's Anſwer related to the Demand of the *States*, and that it could not bear a dutiful Conſtruction. However, he continued to find out Objections; and we believe 'twas rather to raiſe Difficulties, than to remove them, that he gave us Memorials at preſent.

We have happily anticipated the King's Intentions, by following, nevertheleſs, his firſt Orders; ſince the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Strasburg* will not be given to the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, till after

after they have acknowledg'd Monſ. *Duker*, which they are not ready to do; and the Nuncio having receiv'd the Propoſals open as we are wont to give them, wiſhes they had been ſeal'd up. We are entirely at your Service.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing of our Letter, Monſ. *Hulſt* came to us on the part of Monſieur *Beverning*, to tell us, that that Miniſter having conſider'd the Abatement the King is diſpos'd to grant to the Subjects of the *States*, in their Duties, is of Opinion, that the ſame does not put them into a Capacity to recover their Commerce. He likewiſe gave us a Memorial of it, which we will ſubjoin at the Bottom of this Letter; and that, conſequently, he did not think himſelf obliged to return an Anſwer to his Maſters, for fear leſt they ſhould take their Reſolutions thereupon; and that he choſe rather to wait for a greater Manifeſtation of the King's Favour, without which he was apprehenſive, that his Maſters, entertaining no Hopes of Re-eſtabliſhing their Commerce, would loſe the good Diſpoſitions they have for Peace, and by the Prohibition of *French* Manufactures, put Affairs farther backward, and render them more difficult. He then concluded with a Requeſt, that we would tell him, whether the King would make no farther Abatement in favour of his Maſters. We need not tell you, Sir, that we gave him to underſtand, how conſiderable the Diminution was, to which his Majeſty had conſented; and that we repeated the ſame things over to him, as we declar'd to Monſ. *Beverning*. All that we can judge from this laſt Conference, is, that that Miniſter will not break off the Negotiation, but that, without carrying it on too far, he would

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keep it up, and proceed therein on such a Foot, as that some Treaty may be concluded, at the Return of the Prince of *Orange*, if Things are disposed thereto; and in the mean time, not engage himself, in order to be at Liberty to do what he will, in case that, by the Voyage of that Prince, Affairs should take a contrary Turn.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated *October* 19. 1677.

SIR,

OUR last Letter will make you judge, there is nothing to be expected from our Negotiations with Monsieur *Beverning*, before the Prince of *Orange*, who sets out this Day for the Court of the King of *Great-Britain*, is return'd. Indeed, it appears to us, that the Power of that Minister is confined to treat only of Commerce, during the Absence of that Prince. He also evidently makes it appear to us, that he is afraid of receiving Satisfaction upon that Point. And we are sensible, Sir, that it is not the King's Interest to give it him, unless his Masters are willing to merit it, by affording greater Advantages to his Majesty. Therefore, we shall leave the said Monsieur *Beverning*, to apply himself to revive (as he endeavours to do) the Spirit of his Allies, and give them to understand, that that Voyage will produce either a Rupture between *England* and *France*, (of which, God be thanked, we see no Likelihood) or Conditions of Peace more Satisfactory

factory to them, than thoſe they could obtain in this Aſſembly; but we hope, they'll be miſtaken, as well in the ſecond Point, as in the firſt. However, ſince they may gain ſome Advantage from the laſt Writings they preſented to us, whereby they impute the Prolongation of the Peace to our Delay in anſwering the Demands of Prince *Charles*; we think, Sir, it will be convenient to anſwer thoſe Writings, in order to undeceive the Publick. This is a ſmall Draught thereof, that we have juſt made; and ſince 'tis only to be dictated to the Mediators, we have render'd it as ſucceinct as it was poſible for us to do. If you judge that any thing ought to be added thereto, we will conform ourſelves to the Orders you ſhall give us. We are alſo obliged to tell you, Sir, that Monſieur *Hyde* complain'd to one of us, that altho' he and his Collegues have faithfully acquitted the Commiſſion with which we charg'd them, to tell the Allies, that till the Biſhop of *Straſburg*'s Miniſter was acknowledg'd, and his Full Power receiv'd, we would not anſwer the Demands of Prince *Charles*; nevertheleſs, their Allies inſerted in their Precedent-Books, that we had declared to the ſaid Mediators, that the Refuſal to admit the Biſhop of *Straſburg*'s Envoy, would occaſion the Breaking up of this Aſſembly; that they, the Mediators, return'd to the Aſſembly of the ſaid Allies, to proteſt to them, that neither we, nor they, conſequently, had ſpoke in that manner.

The Allies ſhew, by ſo diſingenuous a Procedure, a great Miſtruſt of *England*, and a Deſign formed to prejudice the Mediation; the rather, becauſe when they ſent us Word by the Nuncio's Auditor, that if we would favourably hearken to new Propoſals of Peace, on the part of the *Spaniards*, the Nuncio would take upon him, to

make them, as it were, from himſelf, in order to exclude the Mediation of *England* from that Negotiation; and to make uſe of it, as that which was attempted at *Rome*, with the Duke *d'Eſtrees*, to notify to the King of *England*, that we would elude the Offices of his Ambaſſadors. But foraſmuch as we perceive to what all thoſe Wiles tend, you may believe, Sir, that we ſhall not fall into the Snares which are laid for us; and that we ſhall continue to give the Ambaſſadors of *England*, all manner of Occaſion to be well ſatisfied with our Integrity; of which we doubt not but they have already given a Teſtimonial to the King their Maſter. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *October* 21. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; I have receiv'd your Diſpatch of the 12th inſtant, and the Memorial of the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, which was deliver'd to you by the Mediators, touching the Biſhop of *Strasburg*; as alſo, thoſe they gave you, on the part of all the Confederacy, as to the Conditions of Peace. 'Tis very ſtrange, that the Emperor ſhould, in the firſt, exclude the Biſhop of *Strasburg* from the Treaty, and refer the Diſcuſſion of his Intereſt to the Judgment of the Diet of the Empire, when he was violently turned out of his Dominions. The more true it is, that he never declar'd War againſt the Emperor, or the Empire,

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and that he only enter'd into a League with me, when 'twas requiſite to get out of the Hands of the *Hollanders*, the Places they had uſurped from the Elector of *Cologn*; ſo much the more reaſonable it is, that when he ſuffers ſo unjuſt a Perſecution in his own Country, he ſhould find Protection in my Alliance. Ever ſince the Beginning of the War, I have reckon'd him in the Number of my Allies; and without taking Notice of the Forgetfulneſs of Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, of what you told him thereof, the whole Aſſembly knows, that you declar'd yourſelves as to that Title, in his Favour, upon your Arrival at *Nimeguen*. If the Princes of the Empire were not blind as to their main Intereſt, they would uphold their own Cauſe, in that of the ſaid Biſhop: They would maintain the Liberty they have eſtabliſhed, with ſo much Diligence, in the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*, to contract Alliances; and would not obſerve, without ſome Uneaſineſs, that the Emperor begins to treat them as Vaſſals in the Perſon of that Prince. The time alſo in which the Biſhop of *Strasburg* enter'd into a League with me, removes all Colour of charging him with having taken Meaſures againſt the Empire. Then there was no War on Foot, in which the Caprice of the Houſe of *Auſtria* had involved *Germany* for foreign Intereſts. Therefore, you ought to ſtand firm, after the manner you have hitherto done, both to cauſe the Biſhop of *Strasburg*'s Miniſter to be acknowledg'd, and to be comprehended in the Number of my Allies. He ought, both by himſelf, and by the Protection I give him, to act in his own Name, in the Aſſembly, after the ſame manner, as the Allies of the Emperor and the King of *Spain* do. So far explain yourſelves, that you cannot anſwer Prince *Charles*'s Propoſals. Take care that thoſe of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, which

which you have put into the Hands of the Mediators in Truſt, may only ſerve to ſhew, that there is no Prolongation of the Treaty, either on my Part, or on that of my Allies; and that they will not depart from thence, till you have obtain'd the juſt Satisfaction you demand.

As to the Memorials of the Allies, which have been deliver'd to you by his Holineſs's Nuncio, and by the Ambaſſadors of *England*; ſince they only contain the former ſo extravagant Demands which they made before, they ſeem only to deſerve the ſame Anſwers that you formerly gave thereto; neither have you any thing to add new. I only think fit, that when thoſe Memorials are communicated by his Miniſters, you may return an Anſwer thereto, in general Terms:

That foraſmuch as you well know, my Intention is ſincere for the publick Tranquillity; you ſhould obſerve, with Satisfaction, the Deſire which the Ambaſſadors of the Allies make appear to promote it, if you ſaw in their Memorials new Overtures, to facilitate the Means thereof; but that having only found therein the ſame Pretenſions of Reſtitution, Recompence, and Security for the future, on the part of the Emperor, the Empire, and even the King of *Spain*; under a Pretence, that this War was declar'd againſt them by *France*; you judge, that they have forgot, that the ſaid War, whereof they complain, was declared againſt me by the Emperor, and the King of *Spain*: That 'tis enough to notify, with how much Juſtice you propos'd, that all things ſhould continue in the Condition in which the Chance of War has plac'd them; ſince I have a Right to claim Satisfaction, for the Damage and Charge which this War has brought upon me: That you would alſo ſtay, till the Miniſters of the Allies were inclined to make juſter

Propoſals,

Propoſals, than thoſe they have hitherto produc'd.

You may alſo ſignify, that you cannot anſwer to the Affairs of *Lorrain*, till the Miniſter and the Demands of the Biſhop of *Strasburg* be admitted of, and leave it to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, to explain themſelves, as to the Articles which relate to the King of *Denmark*, and the Elector of *Brandenburg*. You ſhould continue only to repreſent the entire Re-eſtabliſhment of the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*, in all their Points, as the Rule on which the Peace ought to be reſtored in the Empire.

This is the Subſtance of what I think it proper for you to anſwer to thoſe Memorials. The Mediators will, without Doubt, eaſily apprehend, that ſo long as the Allies confine themſelves within ſuch extravagant Bounds, they can only expect from me Anſwers like thoſe which you have given them. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d' Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Fontainebleau, *the* 21*ſt of* October, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *October* 21. 1677.

Gentlemen,

HIS Majeſty's Letter fully anſwers your Diſpatches of the 8th and 12th inſtant; ſo that I have nothing to add thereto. I ſhall only tell you, that his Majeſty approves that you have clear'd Sir *Lionel Jenkins* out of the Miſtake he fell under, by the Failure of his Memory. The Expedient you made uſe of, as to the Propoſals of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, obliges the Enemies either to acknowledge his Miniſter, or not to complain if they receive no Anſwer to the Pretenſions of Prince *Charles*.

The Campagne, which is ended on all ſides, furniſhes us with no more News. According to all Appearance, Prince *Charles* will be ſuddenly obliged to repaſs the *Rhine*, and the Empire will ſee itſelf burden'd with the Winter-Quarters, which the Emperor's Army gave out with ſo much Induſtry they would take up on the hither ſide of that River. The principal Obſervation at this time, is upon the Voyage of the Prince of *Orange* into *England*. We have no News yet, that he is arrived there. I am, Gentlemen, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *October* 21. 1677.

SIRE,

ALtho' the Viſits which Monſieur *Beverning* gave two Days ago, to every one of us in particular, left us in the ſame Opinion in which we profeſs'd to be by our laſt, *viz.* That all the Power of that Miniſter, in the Abſence of the Pr. of *Orange*, was confined to forward the Treaty of Commerce; nevertheleſs, we are obliged ſo much the more to give an Account to your Majeſty, of what induced him to ſee us, and of what he ſaid to us; becauſe we find very many Circumſtances therein, on which we have need to be more amply informed of your Majeſty's Intention, to conform ourſelves thereto, in the Sequel of our Negotiation.

Three Days after the laſt Conference which we had with that Miniſter, whereof we gave your Majeſty an Account, he ſent his Secretary to one of us, to whom, after having excus'd his Maſter, for that when we acquainted him with the Favour your Majeſty would do the *States-General*, to abate incontinently after the making of the Peace, a third part of the Duties impoſed by the Tariff of 1667; He, ſaid he, was not able to inform himſelf fully enough with us, by reaſon of his having forgot the Particulars of his firſt Demands, and our Anſwers touching Commerce. He told him afterwards, on the part of that Miniſter, that after having revis'd all his Papers, he had

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drawn up a ſmall Memorial, which would put us in Mind, that he was not confin'd to demand the Abatement of the Duties laid upon ſome Commodities of the Product of the Country, ſuch as Woollen and Linen-Cloth, refin'd Sugar, Tobacco cut and made up, and every thing appertaining to their Fiſhery, as we know them, and Train-Oil, Herring, and ſalted Salmon, *&c.* But he alſo always deſign'd to extend that Diminution to all manner of Merchandizes, with which the Subjects of the *States-General* traffick to *France*.

Altho' this Claim be very conformable to the Memorial which Monſieur *Beverning* preſented us the 20th of *Auguſt* laſt, whereof we ſent your Majeſty a Copy, whereby, in the 20th Article, he demanded, that the Duties of all Merchandizes, without any Diſtinction, with which the Subjects of the *States-General* deal into *France*, ſhould be fixed on the Foot as they were in the Year 1662; nevertheleſs, foraſmuch as the preceding Memorial, which was put into our Hands, the 18th of *June*, and whereof we likewiſe ſent your Majeſty a Copy, makes a particular Diſtinction, in like manner, of five ſorts of Merchandizes, of the Product of the *United Provinces*, with reſpect to which, the reducing of the Duties to the Foot of 1663, was demanded; and for the reſt, he contented himſelf with the Tariff of 1662; we thought fit to return to the Secretary of the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning*, that laſt Memorial, which he gave to one of us, and to tell him, (as we had done to his Maſter before) that the Abatement which your Majeſty would vouchſafe to grant, ought not to be applied to other Merchandizes, than the five Sorts which he complain'd were overcharged: And alſo, foraſmuch as we had no reaſon to be ſatisfied with the Silence the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning* has kept, as to all the other

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Conditions of a general or particular Peace, and much leſs with the Procedure of all the Allies towards us, and the Mediators of *England*; we judg'd it expedient for your Majeſty's Service, to tell that Secretary, that if his Maſter had any Memorials to give us hereafter, touching the Commerce or Peace, he ought to do it by the way of the Mediators of *England*, by whoſe Mediation we would alſo notify to him your Majeſty's Intentions. This Declaration very much alarm'd Monſ. *Beverning*, as far as we can judge thereof by the tedious Apologies that he made us, in Vindication of the Conduct he had obſerved towards us, and which he deſign'd to keep to, till the Concluſion of the Peace; the Subſtance whereof is, that he has ſtill the ſame Power, and the ſame Intention to promote the Negotiation of it, by all manner of ways: That the Prince of *Orange*'s Voyage into *England*, would occaſion no Delay therein; that the ſaid Prince went thither only, at the Requeſt of the King of *England*, and without knowing what he was to do there: That tho' he was not very forward to marry, nevertheleſs the Apprehenſion he was under, leſt that Princeſs, who was deſign'd for him, ſhould be granted to the preſſing Inſtances of the King of *Sweden*, might be the Cauſe of his Voyage, rather than general Affairs: That alſo, to ſpeak to us without Reſervation, the *States-General* being very much diſſatisfied with the Succeſs of the Campagne, that Prince would be very glad to re-eſtabliſh himſelf in their Eſteem, by a good Peace; and that if the ſaid *Beverning* could do it in his Abſence, he was aſſured he would have many Inſtances for it at his Return: That therefore he is quite ready to treat and conclude every thing which relates to the Intereſt of his Maſters. And forasmuch as Commerce is the principal Part thereof, it was

requiſite

requiſite to put an end firſt to the Difficulties yet remaining, which do not appear to him to be of Importance enough, to ſtop us; ſince if we would only examine the Tariff of 1667, we ſhould find that your Majeſty, being willing to grant the Diminution of one third on the Duties, impos'd by the ſaid Tariff; moſt of the Merchandizes which they complain are too much over-charg'd, would pay no more in conſequence of that Diminution, than they were tax'd in 1662, and even ſome leſs.

We told him, That we never look'd upon the Treaty of Commerce, but as a Conſequence of the Treaty of Peace, either a general one with all thoſe who are at preſent in War, or a particular one with the *States-General*, in caſe their Allies would not concur with them, to put an end to a War, which was ſo unfortunate to them: That nevertheleſs, your Majeſty being diſpos'd, to ſhew them your good Diſpoſition to reſtore your Amity to them, has furniſh'd us with Means to advance the Affair of Commerce, and has granted in their Favour, for that end, every thing we could hope for; by permitting us to aſſure him, That you would vouchſafe, after the Peace, to remit to the Subjects of the *States-General*, the Third of the Duties, ſpecified in the Tariff of 1667, which contains the Merchandizes manufactur'd in *Holland*, and which are uſually imported into *France*, by the *Hollanders*: That theſe were the ſame Terms, which we made uſe of, to let him know your Majeſty's Intentions: That therefore, this Abatement cannot be extended to any other Merchandizes, than thoſe manufactur'd in *Holland*; and that the ſame was ſpecified to him, in a Memorial of the 18th of *June*; That an Abatement upon all ſorts of Merchandizes, would indefinitely ruin all your Majeſty's Revenues, and give as much

Advantage

Advantage to all other Nations, as to the *States-General:* That alſo the Favour which your Majeſty would vouchſafe to do them, being not ſtipulated by any Treaty, but only by a new Tariff, which ſhould be made after the Peace; no favourable Diſtinction could be inſerted therein, for the *States-General*, unleſs for the Abatement of the Duties laid upon Merchandizes of the Product of their Country.

That beſides, he was miſtaken in the Calculation he had made, That that Diminution of the third Part ought to be ſubſtracted from the Total of the Duties laid by the Tariff of 1667; as for example, ſuppoſe a Piece of *Holland*-Cloth, tax'd at 80, was reduc'd to 53, or thereabouts, there would be a Diminution of 27: But according to what appear'd to us of your Majeſty's Intentions, that Diminution ought only to extend to the Augmentation there was, by the Treaty of 1667, as to the Duties laid in 1664; which not advancing upon a Piece of Cloth above 40 or thereabouts, could not conſequently be diminiſh'd but about 17, and ſo of the reſt: That at preſent, we know not whether your Majeſty, who have expreſs'd your Good-Will towards the *States-General*, as to the Article of their Commerce, in a belief you had, that they were deſirous, with no leſs Earneſtneſs, to re-enter by a good Peace into your Favour, would not change your Mind, when you ſaw by our laſt Diſpatches, that he Monſieur *Beverning* ſhew'd no great Earneſtneſs to us, to agree upon Conditions which might lead us thereto. Our Diſcourſe ended with many Proteſtations he made us, of the earneſt Deſire of his Maſters, to re-enter ſo ſoon as poſſible, into your Majeſty's Favour; but without mentioning either the Barrier, which they claim, or any other Condition of Peace, than what relates to Commerce:

merce: He very much urg'd his Pretenſion, That the Favour you are willing to grant, of an Abatement of the Third of the Duties laid by the Tariff of 1667, and which he hopes (ſaid he) that you would render yet more conſiderable, in the Concluſion of the Treaty, ought to extend to the Total of the Duties, and to all ſorts of Merchandizes, with which the Subjects of the *States-General* traffick: And we, on the contrary, pleaded, That we only ſpoke to him of a Diminution of the new and laſt Settlement of the Rates, made by the ſaid Tariff of 1667, and not of the Duties impos'd before, nor for any other Merchandizes, than the five ſorts about which we explain'd ourſelves. If we are miſtaken in either of thoſe Points, we ſhall have ſo much the more means to certifie to him, the Favour which your Majeſty is willing to do them; and what you ſhall pleaſe to notifie to us of your Intentions, will ſerve us as Inſtructions in the Sequel of the Negotiation, which apparently will languiſh here, till the Return of the Prince, whom we are aſſur'd, the *States-General* have only impower'd, to hear the Propoſals which ſhall be made, in order to be reported to them. We are, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *October* 22. 1677.

SIRE,

AFter having given an Account to your Majeſty, of the Diſcourſe we had with Monſieur *Beverning*, in the Viſits he gave us; we receiv'd the Diſpatch, wherewith you honour'd us, of the 14th of this Month, which permits us to notifie to that Miniſter, That you are diſpos'd to lower the Duties on the five Kinds of Merchandizes of *Holland*, to the half of what they were tax'd by the Tariff of 1667; and that good News made him reſolve to ſet out to morrow, in order (as he ſaid) to go himſelf and give Monſieur *Fagel* an Account thereof, and to obtain the Permiſſion and Conſent of the *States-General*, for the Concluſion of a Treaty of Commerce, if the Senſe wherein he receiv'd this Favour, be not (as we wrote to him) very different from ours; in regard that he pleads ſtill, that this Diminution can only be meant from the Total of the Duties, whereas we maintain, on the contrary, that it can only extend to the new Augmentation, or laſt Settlement of the Rates fix'd in the ſaid Year 1667, and not to the ancient Duties contain'd in the preceding Tariffs: We alſo told him, That ſo great an Abatement could not reaſonably be demanded, becauſe you would reduce the Duties laid upon Herrings, and ſome other ſorts of Fiſh, to leſs than they were, not only in 1664, when the *States General* had not yet given Grounds of Diſſatisfaction, but in the Year 1662, to the Foot whereof

whereof his firſt Demands were confin'd: That his Maſters ought to content themſelves with making their Subjects ſenſible incontinently after the making of the Peace, of ſuch advantageous Effects of your Majeſty's Amity; and that they might ſtill hope for greater from it, in proceſs of time, when their Truſt would be perfectly eſtabliſh'd, and when you ſhall have as much cauſe to be pleas'd with their Conduct, as you had in the beginning of your Reign. He made anſwer to us, That he hop'd your Majeſty would explain more extenſively, than we had done, the Favour you was diſpos'd to grant them; which could not content his Maſters, and much leſs the Merchants, if you confin'd it to the Half of what was augmented by the Tariff of 1667, as to the preceding Taxes; That he promis'd himſelf alſo, you would vouchſafe to extend it to other Merchandizes, with which the Subjects of the *States-General* uſually traffick into *France*, and which are not comprehended in the five Kinds ſpecified in your Memorial of the 1ſt of *July*, as Salt-Butter, Cheeſe, and ſuch other Commodities, whereof he exhibited a Memorial.

He alſo preſs'd us to let him know, as ſoon as poſſible, what Order your Majeſty would be pleas'd to give, as to the collecting of the 50 Sols *per* Ton; ſo that the Subjects of the *States-General* might be oblig'd to pay it only in Proportion to the Cargo of the Ship, and that there may be no Oppreſſion on the part of the Commiſſioners appointed to collect that Duty: And after he ask'd us, what Aſſurance he might give his Maſters, of the Abatement of the Duties, which your Majeſty grants; and to conclude, he told us, That when they ſhall have obtain'd of your Majeſty the Satisfaction they expect, we ſhould ſee with what Earneſtneſs he would preſs their Allies, to conſent

ſent to a Peace; and that he perceiv'd, if it were not made before the end of the Year, there would be a neceſſity to go through a ſevere Campagne, and perhaps ſeveral others. We ſhall not trouble your Majeſty, with the Account of all our Replies, which were always with reſpect to the Duties laid in the Year 1667, in the ſame Senſe as we have juſt now explain'd ourſelves, and as to the Security for the Diminution, we told him, that the beſt Method that could be taken, was to make, after the Peace, a new Tariff, wherein, your Duties ſhould be lower'd in the manner as we declar'd to him; and that in the mean time, he might repoſe more Truſt in the Promiſe we would give him on the part of your Majeſty, than in all the Writings he could demand: He ſeem'd to acquieſce herein, ſo that it appears as if we were miſtaken in the Explanation we made to him, of the Abatement which your Majeſty is diſpos'd to grant, and that you would have your-ſelf underſtood according to the Senſe of Monſieur *Beverning*; and that beſides, your Majeſty would vouchſafe to extend that Diminution to ſome Commodities, as Cheeſe, Salt-Butter, and others, wherewith the *Hollanders* uſually traffick; as alſo to grant them ſome ſmall Satisfaction as to the collecting of 50 Sols *per* Ton. We are likely to terminate the Affair of Commerce with him, very ſoon, and perhaps cauſe the *States-General* to take a Reſolution, to oblige their Allies to conſent to a general Peace, or to make their ſeparate Accommodations: And foraſmuch as the Aſſembly of the *States* of *Holland*, is to be held the 10th of next Month, before which 'tis expedient for your Majeſty's Service, that we ſhould notifie to the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning*, every thing that his Maſters may expect from you, on the Affair of Commerce; we hope you will vouchſafe to clear our Doubts,

as ſoon as poſſible, and let us know exactly, how far we ought to extend the Diminution you grant, and to what Kinds of Merchandizes: The Apprehenſion we are always under, of going beyond your Orders, when we are not ſufficiently inſtructed, being able to deprive us of Moments ſo important for your Majeſty's Service, that it would be difficult to recover them by too late Offers of Conditions, more advantageous to your Enemies. But foraſmuch as your Majeſty is capable of foreſeeing infinitely better than we, what may advance or retard the Affairs you are diſpos'd to commit to our Charge; we ought only to wait, with Submiſſion, for the Orders you ſhall think fit to give us, being with profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *October* 22. 1677.

SIR,

THE two Letters we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, will ſhew you, what is the Explanation we gave as to his laſt Orders; and you will eaſily judge of what Importance it is, that we ſhould be thoroughly inform'd as ſoon as poſſible. For that purpoſe, it would be highly neceſſary, to ſend us a Liſt of all the Merchandizes and Commodities, the Duties whereof His Majeſty is willing to retrench in favour of the *States-General*; and to cauſe to be inſerted in

one Column, what they ought to pay, by the Tariff of 1667, and in another, how much the Abatement which His Majeſty is diſpos'd to grant, amounts to. By that means, we ſhould be fully inform'd of His Majeſty's Intentions, and without departing from the Order he has given us, not to leave any thing of it in Writing, we ſhould ſpeak with greater Certainty, to Monſieur *Beverning*, and we ſhould be no longer under the Apprehenſion of doing more or leſs than His Majeſty deſires.

If he would alſo give ſome Satisfaction, touching the raiſing of the Duty of 50 Sols *per* Ton, it would be very requiſite, to draw up a Scheme, for the Regulation of it, either in Form of a Declaration, or the Arreſt of the Council above; that it may be ſhewn to Monſieur *Beverning*, or to tell him the Subſtance of it by Word of Mouth; aſſuring him, That after the Peace, the Execution of it will be infallible; we alſo intreat you, Sir, to let us know, whether we may promiſe him poſitively, That the Subjects of the *States-General* will be permitted to enjoy the Abatement which the King grants, as to the Duties of Importation; either by means of a new Tariff which ſhall be made of it after the Peace, or by a Declaration of His Majeſty in Favour of the Subjects of the ſaid *States* alone, or by a Decree; to the end that if the King is willing we ſhould ſpeedily terminate every thing that relates to the Commerce, there may be no longer any thing capable of putting a ſtop to our Proceedings.

Monſieur *Duker* has taken upon him to notifie to the Biſhop of *Paderborn*, His Majeſty's good Intentions, according to the Memorial we gave him; or rather, the Extract of what he order'd us to give that Prince to underſtand; for which, the ſaid Monſieur *Duker* has a Cypher: As ſoon as we

ſhall have the Anſwer to it, we will not fail to give His Majeſty an Account thereof. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *October* 26. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing to add to what we gave ourſelves the Honour to write to you the laſt Poſt; all things being here in the ſame Condition. We ſhall only tell you by this, that Monſieur *Beverning* went, Yeſterday, to a Country-Houſe he has near the *Hague*, from whence apparently he will not return, till he has receiv'd News from the Prince of *Orange*. The Paſſport which you had the Goodneſs, Sir, to ſend ſome time ago, for Monſieur *Voeller* being expir'd; we moſt humbly intreat you, to renew it for three Months, and to be thoroughly perſuaded of the Reality, with which we are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors.
Dated *October* 28. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; your Letters of the 24th and 25th inſtant ſhew Me, That you believe you have met with more Indifferency in the Temper of Monſieur *Beverning*, in the laſt Conference you had with him; and

and that you repreſented to him, the Diminution I was willing to make of the Duties of Importation, payable for the Merchandizes of *Holland*, which come into my Kingdom; whether this Indifferency (even as you ſuſpect) proceeds from ſome Hopes that the *States* have entertain'd, of the Prince of *Orange*'s Voyage into *England*; or whether it were occaſion'd by the little Advantage, which Monſieur *Beverning* expected to find in the Commerce; I judge it expedient to put you into a Condition to proſecute that Affair, as one of thoſe which more effects the *States*, and which is moſt capable of inducing them to a ſeparate Treaty, when they ſee their Allies cannot be brought to reaſonable Terms for a general Peace.

Having only allow'd you at firſt, to remit the Third of the Duties laid by the Tariff of 1667, upon the Merchandizes manufactur'd in *Holland*, and thoſe which are uſually imported by the *Dutch* into my Kingdom; I have already empower'd you to adjuſt that Abatement to the half of thoſe ſame Duties. Perhaps you may have explain'd yourſelves to Monſieur *Beverning*, before you receive this Letter. I am apt to believe, That he will be moved with ſo great an Advantage, which I am willing to grant to his Maſters, at the ſame time that I reſtore my former Amity to them: but in order to augment ſtill farther what I am diſpos'd to do for them, and refer to a time which was favourable to their Commerce, the Impoſts that they formerly paid; I think fit, that without entring upon the Diſcuſſion and Reduction of the Tariff of 1667, you ſhould declare to Monſieur *Beverning*, That I will take as a Rule for thoſe Duties, the Tariff which was made by my Order in the Year 1664: It is ſuch, that the Subjects of the *States*, far from having any Grounds to com-

plain of it, would have very great reaſon to be well ſatisfied therewith; and that the Commerce which they had with my Kingdom, was never more advantageous, than at that time. You ought alſo equally to repreſent to him, the Advantage which will redound to them, from thence; and how great a Mark it is of my Friendſhip. He is ſo far ſenſible of the Intereſts of his own Country, that you would have no need to amplify him that which His Maſters would find, in re-entring with thoſe Advantages into their ancient Alliances; and by that means, you may more and more inſpire him with the Deſire of putting an end to the War, either by a general Peace, or by a particular one.

But becauſe I cannot engage Myſelf in Writing, to confine within certain Bounds, the Liberty of augmenting the Duties of Importation into my Kingdom; 'tis only by Word of Mouth, that I permit you to grant to Monſieur *Beverning*, the Abatements, which I cannot allow to be inſerted in a Treaty. I obſerv'd, he ask'd you, what Security His Maſters may have, to enjoy it after the Peace is concluded; but upon that Point, 'tis ſufficient that you tell him, That they may have an abſolute one in my Promiſe; and that they ought to aſſure themſelves, that in giving it to them poſitively by you, I will cauſe it punctually to be executed, in due time, and upon the Conditions for which you gave it them. Upon this Account, I cannot enter into any other Engagement, and they ought to repoſe an entire Confidence therein: Every Expedient would, even as I have already obſerv'd to you, prejudice one of the niceſt Rights of Sovereignty. Therefore, I do not approve, That you told Monſieur *Beverning*, that when the *States-General* ſhould accept of the Offer I made them, you would every one endeavour on your

ſide

ſide, to find out Expedients for giving them all manner of Security thereupon: It would have been ſufficient, that you had put him in Mind of what he told you himſelf, That if once his Maſters knew to what I would reduce the Impoſts, they would eaſily find Means to eſtabliſh it, by a ſure way, without inſerting it in the Treaty. Therefore, do not go beyond the Promiſe which you ſhould give him in my Name, only aſſure him, That it ſhall be punctually perform'd.

The ſame thing is not to be done, with reſpect to the Anſwer you are to make to the Memorial, which he gave you, touching the Impoſt of 50 Sols *per* Ton: I think fit that you ſhould give it in Writing, when you judge it neceſſary, for the Good of your Negotiation, conformably to the Memorial which I ſend you.

Foraſmuch as the principal Complaint of Monſieur *Beverning* relates to the Collecting, and not to the Eſtabliſhment of a Duty agreed upon by the Treaty of 1662; he will perceive, That my Intention is, to remedy the Frauds which he ſuppoſes to be committed therein. The Arreſts and Regulations of my Councils have already ſufficiently provided, That the Payment of a Duty be made only once, and that the Eſtimation of the Veſſels be made in the Preſence of the Judges of the Places, and of Maſters of Ships, with ſo much Equity and Precaution, that no Abate may be admitted therein. I will give freſh Orders, to cauſe them to be punctually obſerv'd, and will give the like, ſeverely to puniſh the Commiſſioners, in caſe they are guilty of any Miſdemeanor, in the Function wherewith they are charg'd.

What I am diſpos'd to do, in Favour of the Commerce of the *Hollanders*, is of ſuch Importance, that it ought to ſurpaſs the Hopes which Monſieur *Beverning* has conceiv'd thereof, and give him to under-

underſtand, That when I would reſtore my former Amity to the *States-General*, I take a Pleaſure to accompany it with the ſame Advantages to them, as they formerly reap'd from it. By this means, there will be grounds to believe, that they will preſer the Benefit of my Alliance, before the Ruin which is annex'd to that which they have contracted with the *Spaniards*.

I have ſeen the Scheme you have drawn up, of an Anſwer to the Memorial of the Allies, which was deliver'd you by the Mediators. My laſt Diſpatch gave you to underſtand, what I thought proper for you to do therein: So that you may make uſe of what I told you, and of your Draught, which I have approv'd, to notifie to the Aſſembly, how unreaſonable are the Intentions of my Enemies, and how extravagant and unjuſt are their Propoſals of Peace. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Verſailles, *the 28th of* October, 1677.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors*,

Dated *October* 28. 1677.

Gentlemen,

ALL that I can add to the King's Letter, is to tell you, for your particular Inſtruction, That His Majeſty will in no wiſe enter into any other Engagement with the *States*, touching the Diminution of the Impoſts, than the Promiſe which you ſhould give them. They may place an entire Truſt therein, and His Majeſty will reſerve to himſelf,

himself, to cause it to be executed afterwards, by the Authority of his Arrests. You may judge also, that 'tis important for his Service, to deal after this manner, to put him into a Condition, that the Favours which he is dispos'd to grant, may depend upon the sole Methods which he shall think fit to make use of, in order to execute them, without being tied to the Conditions written in a Treaty.

The only Piece of News which I am able to inform you of, is, that the Chancellor *d'Aligre* died suddenly on *Monday* last; The King put Monsieur *de Tellier* Yesterday in his Place; you may judge well enough, that this Choice was attended with a general Approbation. I am, Gentlemen, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to the King.

Dated *October* 29. 1677.

SIRE,

WE have been to see the Nuncio, and the Mediators of *England*, according to the Orders we receiv'd from Your Majesty, and told them, That since we knew how sincere Your Majesty's Intention was for the publick Tranquillity; we should have observ'd with Pleasure, the Desire that the Ambassadors of the Allies would have made appear, to promote it, if we had seen in their Memorials any new Overtures in order to facilitate the Means thereof: But that having only found the same Claims of Restitution, Recompence and future Security, on the part of the Emperor and the Catholick King; also under a Colour, that this War was declar'd against them

by *France*; we judg'd, that they had forgot, that this same War whereof they complain, was declar'd against Your Majesty, by the Emperor and the Catholick King: That 'twas enough to make appear, with how much Justice we propos'd, that all things should continue in the Condition wherein the Fortune of War has plac'd them; since Your Majesty has a Right to claim Satisfaction for the Damages and Charges which this War has brought upon you: That therefore we expect, that the Ministers of the Allies incline to Proposals more equitable than those which they have hitherto made.

As to Prince *Charles* of *Lorrain*, we told them, That since his Minister has been admitted, and his Full-Power, and his Proposals receiv'd; it was strange, that the Allies made a Scruple in like manner to admit the Minister and the Demands of the Bishop of *Strasburg*; and that they would refer the Discussion of his Interests, to the Judgment of the Diet of the Empire, when he was driven out of his Territories, and ought both of himself, and as an Ally of your Majesty, to act in his own Name in this Assembly, even as the Allies of the Emperor and the King of *Spain* do. So that till his Ministers and his Proposals were receiv'd, we could not answer to the Proposals of Prince *Charles* of *Lorrain*.

The said Mediators promis'd us, to make an exact Report to the Allies, of every thing that we had said; and to the end that nothing might escape out of their Memory, they desir'd us to consent, that they should commit it to Writing, which they accordingly did.

Count *Oxenstiern* came to desire us, to renew our Instances with the Mediators, in order to obtain of the King of *Denmark*, a free Passage of the Letters; it being impossible, that he can act in the

Affairs of Peace, while he receives no Inſtructions from the King his Maſter. We ſpoke to them ſmartly thereupon, and they promis'd us to urge the Affair with Warmth, to the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*. We are, with a profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *October* 29. 1677.

SIR,

YOU may perceive by the King's Letter, That we have acquitted ourſelves, in what His Majeſty enjoin'd us by the Diſpatch he did us the Honour to write to us, of the 14th inſtant.

We hope ſpeedily to hear ſome News of what the Prince of *Orange* has negotiated in *England*: He arriv'd at *London* the 23d inſtant. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER.

From Monsieur de Pomponne to the Ambassadors.

Dated *October* 30. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King's Dispatch which I sent you by the last Post, so fully informs you of his Majesty's Sentiments, with respect to the Favour he is disposed to grant to the *States-General*, touching the Commerce, that I should have nothing to add thereto, if his Majesty had not order'd me to return an Answer as to the clear Information you desire by your Dispatches of the 21st and 22d instant. Forasmuch as you doubt, whether the Reduction of the Imposts which are rais'd upon Merchandizes, ought to extend to the new Augmentation, that was made by the Tariff of the Year 1667, or to every thing which the said Merchandizes pay; and also, whether that Diminution ought to extend to all the Merchandizes which the *Hollanders* import into *France*, or to some Commodities only? The Permission which his Majesty grants you, to agree with the Tariff of the Year 1664, takes away all that Difficulty. All Merchandizes are generally comprehended therein; and forasmuch as the Duties which were paid in that Year, were augmented one half by the Tariff of the Year 1667, you perceive, Gentlemen, that this is properly the same Abatement of the Half, which his Majesty has empower'd you to promise; but what is clearer and liable to less Explication, is the taking of the certain Rate of

of the Tariff of 1664, already known and us'd by the *Hollanders*. So that, ſince Monſieur *Beverning* appear'd very well ſatisfied with the Abatement of the Half, provided it extends to all Sums payable from their Merchandizes, and to all ſorts of Commodities, there is reaſon to hope, that he will make good uſe thereof in *Holland*; and that the Proſpect of ſo great an Advantage will augment the Deſire of Peace, which is already ſo great there.

As to the 50 Sols *per* Ton, I have nothing to add, Gentlemen, to what the King wrote to you by his Diſpatch of the 28th; and it only remains for me to aſſure you, Gentlemen, of the Reality with which I am entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *November* 2. 1677.

SIR,

THE Prince of *Orange*'s Voyage keeps all things here in Suſpence. Monſieur *Beverning* is gone for the *Hague*, and will not come back till that Prince is return'd from *England*. The Marquis *de los Balbaſes* ſet out alſo yeſterday for *Antwerp*, where he is to confer with the Duke *de Villahermoſa*; from thence he will return to the *Hague*; and in all Appearance, he has order'd Matters to be there, by the time of the Return of the Prince of *Orange*; in order to be inform'd both ſooner and more certainly, of what is done in *England*, and to make good uſe of every thing he can,

can, in a Conjuncture ſo deciſive for Peace or War. We are, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *November* 5. 1677.

SIRE,

WHat your Majeſty is diſpoſed to do in Favour of the Commerce of the *States-General*, is of ſuch Importance, that we doubt not but they will be eaſily ſolicited thereby, to make a Peace, either general, or a ſeparate one; and we are very much concerned, that we cannot now give your Majeſty an Account of the firſt Effect this has produced in the Mind of Monſieur *Beverning*. That Miniſter is at the *Hague*, as we have had the Honour to ſend you Word; and 'tis ſaid he will not return hither this Fortnight. We expect here Monſieur *Hulſt* his Secretary in a ſhort time; but conſidering the Uncertainty of his Return, we judg'd it expedient, to notify to him, that he ſhould come and meet us here. We believ'd, Sire, we ought to make uſe of this Method, to certify Monſieur *Beverning* of your Majeſty's Intentions; becauſe he is the only Perſon in whom that Miniſter confides, with reſpect to that Affair; and Monſieur *Hulſt*, for his own part, is very well diſpos'd to make the beſt of every thing your Majeſty is willing to do, for the Advantage of the Commerce of the *Hollanders*. We did not think we ought to ſpeak of it to Monſieur *Haeren*, altho' he is here; becauſe Monſieur *Beverning* being willing, by the Re-eſtabliſhment of the Com-

merce,

merce, to put himſelf forward in the Eſteem of the Province of *Holland*, which it moſt concerns; we ſhould not only deprive him of the whole Merit, by cauſing the Negotiation to paſs thro' the Hands of another, but alſo run the Riſque of loſing all the Advantage which he may obtain thereby.

Sire, the Ambaſſadors of *England* came to tell us this day, that the King, their Maſter, has not approv'd of the Expedient which was propoſed, that the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* ſhould go to viſit them firſt in Ceremony; and that after having receiv'd their Counter-Viſit, he ſhould cauſe his Arrival to be notified to all the Ambaſſador who are here. Thoſe Gentlemen ſay, that tho' they acted at *Cologn* after this manner; nevertheleſs, the Cuſtom having been eſtabliſhed quite different at *Nimeguen*, by all the Ambaſſador who are there, the King, their Maſter, thought, that if this new Cuſtom were changed, upon the Occaſion of the Diſpute which the Emperor's Ambaſſadors have raiſed, it would be to deſiſt, in ſome meaſure, from the Right acquir'd by his Mediation, and give a kind of Superiority to the Emperor, over crown'd Heads, which he ought not to claim. If this Reſolution of the Ambaſſadors of *England* occaſions any Difficulty, by reaſon of the Obſtinacy wherewith the Emperor's Ambaſſadors demand the firſt Notification; we ſhall regulate our Conduct according to your Majeſty's Orders. We are, with a profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated *November* 5. 1677.

SIR,

WE receive, by the King's Dispatch of the 28th *ult.* as also by yours of the same Day, and another of the 30th of the same Month, such positive and clear Orders, as to the Diminution which the King is disposed to grant to the *States-General*, that we hope thereby to prevent all the Objections which Monsieur *Beverning* may make us; and that Diminution whereto his Majesty consents, is so advantageous for the Commerce of the *Hollanders*, that we doubt not but they will hear with an extraordinary Joy, that the King is willing to grant them those new Marks of the Honour of his Amity. We shall not exceed our Orders, upon every thing which his Majesty prescribes us; and you saw, Sir, by our last Letters, that we have given no Hopes of any other Security for that Abatement, than the King's Promise, engaged by our Intercession; and the Offer which his Majesty permits us to make him at present, of re-establishing the Tariff of 1664, will, in all Appearance, content him; and ought to oblige him to stipulate for no other Security, than that of his Majesty's said Promise. We are induced to believe thus much from the Conduct he has hitherto observed towards us, if the Voyage of the Prince of *Orange* has not tied up his Hands,

and

and render'd him uncapable of putting in Execution the good Diſpoſitions they have made appear to us. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *November* 6. 1677.

Gentlemen,

FOr asmuch as the particular Letter which you were pleas'd to write to me of the 20th *ult.* requires no Anſwer, except touching the Paſport of Monſieur *Verller*, which I ſend you; and ſince your Diſpatch to the King of the 29th, only contains the Anſwer you have put into the Hands of the Mediators, as to the laſt Propoſals of the Allies; I have no other Affair to communicate to you, at this time. It appears, that our Enemies have not yet taken their Reſolution, to enter, in good Earneſt, upon the Negotiation of Peace; and, perhaps, they will wait the Event of the Journey of the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* to *Bruſſels*, wherein the Miniſters of *Spain* ought (as they have written) to draw up a Scheme, as to what relates to the Intereſts of the King their Maſter. In the mean time, the Obſervation on one part, is upon what the Prince of *Orange*'s Stay at *London* may produce, where we do not ſee hitherto that he has made any great Progreſs in thoſe Matters. Altho' he expreſſes to the King his Uncle, the Deſire he has for Peace; yet, perhaps, he will explain himſelf farther, as to the Conditions upon which he thinks it convenient for the States and their Allies.

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen, the laſt Advantages which the King permitted you to offer to Monſieur *Beverning*, are of ſo great Importance for his Maſters, that when he ſhall have time to notify the ſame to them, and to return you an Anſwer, there are grounds to believe, that they will not deſire any thing more, as to an Article in which their principal Intereſt will always conſiſt.

Flanders, where the Armies are ſeparated, does not afford us any News. The Campagne ſtill continues in *Germany*, but with ſo great Inconvenience to the Emperor's Army, and ſo little Hopes of obliging the Mareſchal *de Crequi* to retire firſt, that there is reaſon to believe, that the Remainder of his Army will ſpeedily repaſs the *Rhine*, in order to keep up new Quarters in the Empire. I am, Gentlemen, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *November* 9. 1677.

SIR,

WHen we were juſt about writing to *Amſterdam*, to Monſieur *Huiſſ*, Secretary of the Embaſſy of *Holland*, to inform him, that we had ſomething to communicate to Monſieur *Beverning*; he came to us on the part of that Miniſter, to know of us, what Extent his Majeſty would be pleas'd to give to the Diminution of the Half of the Duties of Cuſtom, which he had declared he would willingly grant, in favour of the Commerce of the *United Provinces*: And it was not

difficult

difficult for us to ſhew him, by the Means his Majeſty has given us, that he has fully ſatisfied the Deſires of the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning*, and conſequently thoſe of the *States-General*, by condeſcending to take for a Rule of all the Duties, the Tariff which was made by his Orders, in the Year 1664, when the *Dutch* Merchants, who complain of being oppreſſed, were contented with the Treatment they receiv'd from *France*. That Secretary likewiſe appear'd to us well pleas'd with being the Bearer of ſo favourable an Anſwer, for the Execution of which we told him again, that nothing could be ſtipulated in a Treaty, by reaſon of the Prejudice which would thereby fall upon one of the principal Rights of Sovereignty; but that the *States-General* may repoſe an entire Truſt in the Promiſe, which we would give thereof, on the part of his Majeſty; and that it ſhould be punctually executed. He told us, upon that point, that he left it to Monſieur *Beverning* to agree with us, upon what ſhould be requiſites; but that, in the mean while, he could aſſure us, that the *States-General* would act honourably with the King, ſo as to become more worthy of his Favours.

As to the Duty of 10 Sols per Ton, after having made him ſenſible (as far as lay in our Power) of the Care your Majeſty deſign'd to take, to remedy the Abuſe therein, by the Severity of his Orders, we judg'd it expedient to give him, in Writing, the Anſwer his Majeſty had thought fit to make; and we hear, that that Secretary went back from hence the next Day; ſo that we doubt not but Monſieur *Beverning* is, by this time, inform'd, and very well ſatisfied with what the King is willing to grant to the *States-General*, ſo ſoon as they ſhall oblige him, by a good Peace, to reſtore them his former Amity: And we hope, that that Miniſter,

who

who appears well affected, knows how to make a good Use of the effectual Proofs we have given him of his Majesty's Good-will towards the *United Provinces*; but we don't believe, we can be acquainted with the Success thereof, before the Meeting of the *States of Holland*. We are, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.
Dated *November* 12. 1677.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd the Letter you did us the Honour to write to us, of the 6th instant; and since it does not enjoin us any thing new, neither have we any thing that deserves his Majesty's Cognizance, or yours; and apparently, so long as Monsieur *Beverning* continues at his Country-House, or at the *Hague*, and the Marquis *de los Balbases* is also absent, we shall have no Business of Importance to negotiate or to write about.

There are grounds to believe, that this Intermission of Affairs will last till the Return of the Prince of *Orange*; and most of the Ambassadors and Ministers, whom we see oftenest, are perswaded, that the Marriage of that Prince will be follow'd with some Project for a Peace.

The Ambassadors of *England* do not appear throughly inform'd of what has past in their own Country; and even Monsieur *Hyde*, who negotiated with that Prince for his Passage into *England*, assur'd us, yesterday, that he did not believe his Marriage would be consummated before the

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Concluſion of the Peace; and he only imputes the Reſolution which the King, his Maſter, and the Duke of *York* have taken to forward it, to the Deſire they have of contenting, by that means, the People, who are too miſtruſtful and jealous that the Government adheres to the Intereſt of *France*. After all, both thoſe Miniſters are very reſerved as to the Marriage; but Madam *Temple* expreſſes an extraordinary Joy upon that Occaſion, and gives grounds to believe, that her Huſband has contributed very much thereto. As for our part, Sir, without troubling you with our Ratiocinations concerning the Advantage or Prejudice it may bring to the King's Affairs, we impatiently wait for the Coming back of Monſieur *Beverning*, in the Hopes we have conceived, that that Miniſter being throughly informed of the King's good Intentions for the *States General*, he will give us means, upon his Return, to conclude a good Peace with them. This, Sir, is all that we can ſay of the Matter, at preſent.

The Nuncio communicated to us, yeſterday, as well the Suſpenſion which the King was pleas'd to grant, at his Requeſt, of all the Suits at Law commenced by the Chevalier de *Lisle*, againſt thoſe who are poſſeſſed of Lands in his Majeſty's Juriſdiction, and which are mortgaged in the Service of *Spain*; as the Offer he makes to annul and vacate all thoſe Proceedings, provided the Catholick King acts after the ſame manner, with reſpect to all thoſe which are carried on againſt Monſieur *de Quincy*, and all the others who have taken part in the Service of *France*.

Altho' Don *Pasquilla* has not throughly inform'd us of this Affair, yet he has ſufficiently given us to underſtand, that his Opinion is, that thoſe Offers will not be accepted, and that they may occaſion the King his Maſter to loſe many other

Gentle-

Gentlemen, and experienc'd Officers and Soldiers, who are only retain'd by the Fear of the Proceſs drawn up againſt the ſaid Baron *de Quincy*. The Diligence which the Nuncio will uſe, for the adjuſting of that Affair, will ſhortly afford us an Opportunity, to inform you better of what may be expected from thence: He alſo notified to us, That His Majeſty thought fit to give, upon his Requeſt, the Paſports for the Deputies of the Chapter of *Strasburg*; nevertheleſs, without treating them otherwiſe, than as private Perſons coming to this Aſſembly; and he is very well ſatisfied in thoſe two Points, of the Eſteem that His Majeſty has for him. We are, Sir, *&c.*

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *November* 13. 1677.

Gentlemen,

FOraſmuch as the Abſence of Monſieur *Beverning*, and the Inaction of the Allies at *Nimeguen*, have afforded you but little Matter to write, by the Poſts of the 2d and 5th inſtant; I have likewiſe little to return by way of Anſwer to your Letters. The King has obſerv'd the uſe you have made, of the Expedient ſo advantageous for the Commerce, which His Majeſty has thought fit to allow, in the collecting of the Duties of Importation into his Kingdom: He has approv'd, that till the Return of Monſieur *Beverning*, you have caus'd that Affair to be communicated to him by Monſieur *Huſſy*; and that without declaring yourſelves thereupon to Monſieur *Haren*,

you

you have ſecur'd to him all the Eſteem of his Maſters, upon Account of his having ſo much forwarded a Point, which is ſo important to them.

There is nevertheleſs, a very great Preſumption, That the long Stay of that Miniſter at the *Hague*, is to wait there for the Return of the Prince of *Orange*. People flatter themſelves, without doubt, that the Marriage of that Prince will give a new Turn to Affairs, eſpecially thoſe of the Peace: But I ought to tell you, Gentlemen, that the King of *England* has caus'd new Aſſurances to be given to His Majeſty, That his Diſpoſitions, and his Affection for his Intereſts, ſhould be always the ſame: That he thought himſelf oblig'd to remedy, by that Match, the Uneaſineſs which his ſtrict Alliance with *France*, and the Religion of the Duke of *York*, had excited in his Subjects; but that forasmuch as it obtain'd for him more Credit and Influence over the Temper of that Prince; he made Account to make uſe thereof, to induce him the more eaſily to a reaſonable Peace, and ſuch as His Majeſty would have reaſon to be ſatisfied with. The time to come will ſhew, whether the Prince of *Orange* will have a greater Deference to his Advice; but His Majeſty has more grounds than ever, to be perſuaded, that that Prince has not chang'd his Mind, with reſpect to him: However, it ſeems that Marriage is look'd upon by our Enemies with Regret, and the *Spaniards*, who are ſenſible to what Degree the Prince of *Orange* ought to be offended with the affrontive Expreſſions they ſpread about againſt him, ſince the Raiſing of the Siege of *Charleroy*, ſeem to apprehend, that at leaſt, he will not eſpouſe all their Intereſts, when the Conditions of Peace come to be treated of.

The manner after which the Ambaſſadors of *England* at *Nimeguen*, have refus'd to ſee the Emperor's Ambaſſadors without Rank, ſhews they deſign

design not to recede from what was granted them by their Mediation. Having declar'd themselves accordingly, by order of the King their Master, there are grounds to hope, that they will continue firm therein; and that is all you can desire. 'Tis expedient that the Emperor should not distinguish himself in this manner, from the Conduct which the King and other Princes have vouchsafed to observe, that his Ministers should visit the Mediators first, and that they afterwards see you.

Gentlemen, the present Season does not appear proper, to give you News of any Enterprize of His Majesty's Arms: However, when on the side of *Germany*, they were only busy in settling the Quarters, which the Armies were to take; the Mareschal *de Crequi*, after having made a Feint of Marching towards *Santa Maria*, to the Mines, pass'd the *Rhine* all on a sudden, and form'd the Siege of *Friburg*. Forasmuch as that Place is in a bad Condition, and as Prince *Charles*, who was about *Landau*, leaves him a great deal of time before him, there is reason to expect a speedy and hoppy Success from it. In this case, the Campagne could not end more gloriously, and that Place, which would make the King Master of *Brisgaw*, would very much alter the Dispositions, which the Emperor's Army has made, to take up their Winter Quarters on the hither side of the *Rhine*. I am, Gentlemen, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *November* 16. 1677.

SIR,

YOU may ſee by the Copy of the Letter we ſend you, every thing we have to inform you of this Poſt.

That of Monſieur *Hulſt*, Secretary of the Embaſſy of *Holland*, tells us, that Monſieur *Beverning* wiſhes he had explain'd himſelf more clearly, upon the Complaints he made us, of the Oppreſſions us'd by the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, as to the Freight of Veſſels, touching the 50 Sols *per* Ton: It appears to us, that he is ſatisfied with the Abatement of the Duties impos'd in the Year 1667; ſince he is about to perſuade his Maſters, to be content with thoſe of the Year 1664.

Monſieur *Duker* ſeems to us to have good Hopes, from the Negotiation he has commenc'd with the Biſhop of *Paderborn*. We hope, Sir, to have more Matter to entertain you with, when the Prince of *Orange* is return'd from *England*. The Province of *Holland* will aſſemble the 18th inſtant, which may haſten his Voyage. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *November* 19. 1677.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd the Diſpatch which you did us the Honour to write to us, of the 13th inſtant; and we heard of the Siege of *Friburg*, from the Mareſchal *de Grequi*, with ſo much the more Joy, in regard that ſuch an Enterprize, in a Seaſon ſo far advanc'd, is a farther Mark of the Power of the King, and the Weakneſs of his Enemies, who have caus'd a Report to be ſpread about every where, That the Emperor's Army would take up Winter-Quarters in *France*.

We thought convenient to make Count *Oxenſtiern* acquainted with this News, and to ſignifie to him thereby, how advantageous that Diverſion would be to the Affairs of the King his Maſter; ſince the Example of His Majeſty, who acts with his Army on that ſide of the *Rhine*, by attacking a Place ſo conſiderable there, ought to encourage the Garriſon of *Stetin* and that of *Fort-Rugen*, to continue the vigorous Reſiſtance they have hitherto made.

Monſieur *Hulſt*, Secretary of the Embaſſy of *Holland*, came to us this Day, to tell us, That Monſieur *Beverning* has receiv'd, with great Joy, the News of the Abatement His Majeſt ywas willing to make, of the Duties of Importation into his Kingdom, upon the Foot of the Tariff of 1664; and that to anſwer on his part the Good-Will which His Majeſty expreſs'd towards the

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States-General, he was gone to the principal Towns of *Holland*, to put that Affair into a Condition to be terminated at his Return. That he was willing to give them farther Satisfaction, as to the Oppreſſions the Merchants ſuffer, in the meaſuring of their Ships, which they pretend is not always done faithfully in *France*; and that for that reaſon, he intreated us to write to His Majeſty, to the end that he would be pleas'd to agree upon the Expedient, which he propos'd, That all *Dutch* Ships ſhould be mark'd at the time of their Building, in the Preſence of a *French* Conſul, with ſome Mark, which ſhould ſignifie the Burden of each Veſſel; even as the *States* made an Agreement with *Sweden* and *Denmark*, by their laſt Treaty of Commerce. He alſo deſir'd us, Sir, not to take ill the Stay of Monſieur *Beverning*, which was caus'd only by the Slowneſs of their Deliberations, and the time that is neceſſary to communicate that Affair to ſome Deputies of the Towns, to whom he thought it convenient to notifie the ſame; aſſuring us, that Monſieur *Beverning* would return in two Days time, and that he would give us plenary Satisfaction, as to the Commerce; and even that he would have a Full-Power to regulate their other Concerns.

We hope, Sir, to determine, in a Conference with Monſieur *Beverning*, every thing that relates to Commerce; and we thought we ought to tell you, that we will alſo concert, with him, the Conduct we are to obſerve with reſpect to his Collegues and the Mediators, who have yet no Knowledge of this Affair.

Sir, we are likewiſe oblig'd to tell you, That as far as we can judge, the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning* will not be ſo ſoon agreed with us, as to what relates to Commerce: That he will preſs us as to the Intereſts of the Prince of *Orange*, upon the Bar-

rier which he pretends is abſolutely neceſſary for the Security of the *States-General*, as alſo upon all the other Conditions of Peace, with *Spain*; and if he does not diſcourſe with us, as to thoſe which may make it with the Emperor, and between the Kings and Princes of the North, (in whoſe Intereſts the *States-General* do not concern themſelves, ſo far as the Treaties they have made with them oblige them) at leaſt he will ſtrenuouſly maintain thoſe of Prince *Charles*: As to the latter, the Demands of the Bp. of *Strasburg*, are good Defenſive Arms againſt the publick Inſtances which all the Allies make us: But forasmuch as in the particular Negotiation, which we are to have with Monſieur *Beverning*, he would not fail to grant us every thing we deſire, for the ſaid Biſhop of *Straſburg*, in order to obtain ſomething in Favour of the ſaid Prince *Charles*; we may tell him, That ſince we do not treat with him, about what relates to the Emperor, whoſe Obſtinacy in continuing the War, ought not to give us any Hopes of ſeeing it ended ſo ſoon in *Germany*; and whereas the ſaid Prince is too far engag'd in the Intereſts of His *Imperial* Majeſty, to be eaſily drawn off from it; his private Intereſts can only be diſcuſs'd, when they ſhall be ready to conclude a good Peace with the whole Empire. But with reſpect to the other Points, you may well judge, Sir, That we ſhall be preſs'd much more vigorouſly. We have our laſt Inſtructions to defend ourſelves; but ſince we have entirely exhauſted them, in the laſt Conferences with the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning*, 'tis His Majeſty's Part to judge, whether he has any thing to add thereto, in order to gain time; or whether by repeating them again, in the firſt Conferences which we are to have with that Miniſter, His Majeſty will ſtay for the Overtures which he may make us, to honour us with his Orders.

Sir,

Sir, we have judg'd it expedient, to make a Compliment to the Mediators, upon the freſh Aſſurances the King of *England* has given His Majeſty, That his Diſpoſition, and Affection for his Intereſts were always the ſame; and that the Marriage of the Prince of *Orange* would augment them, rather than diminiſh them. We alſo declar'd to them, That the King commanded us to uphold their Sentiments, upon the Firmneſs which the King their Maſter ſhew'd, not to give way to the new Claim of the *Imperial* Ambaſſadors, touching the firſt Viſits. The Mediators appear'd to us very well ſatisfied with the Declaration we made to them, which cannot but be very agreeable to the King their Maſter, to whom they are to give an Account by the firſt Mail.

Sir, we ſend the Anſwer of the Biſhop of *Paderborn*, to what we caus'd to be written to him, by Monſieur *Duker*: But foraſmuch as it contains nothing poſitive, and gives no Overture to a Treaty with that Prince; we told the ſaid Monſieur *Duker*, That we could not take upon us to give an Account thereof to His Majeſty, or to you; and that it was requiſite, That that Prince ſhould explain himſelf more clearly, as to what he deſigns to do, and what he is deſirous of. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service,

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *November* 20. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; I have been inform'd by your Diſpatches of the 4th and 12th inſtant, of the manner how you explain'd yourſelves to Monſieur *Hulſt*, as to what

I am willing to do in Favour of the Commerce of the *United-Provinces*; and I am very glad to ſee that he has expreſs'd to you the Joy which ſo agreeable a Piece of News infus'd into him in particular, and even that which would affect the *States-General* upon the ſame Occaſion: It will be immediately known to them; ſince that Secretary ſet out the Day following, to communicate the ſame to Monſieur *Beverning*; but I doubt whether that Miniſter will notifie to you the Reſolution of his Maſters, before he is inform'd of the Intention of the Prince of *Orange*.

Altho' it is not to be doubted, but that Prince uſes his Endeavours in *England* for ſome Negotiation in order to a Peace; nevertheleſs, I do not as yet perceive, that he has made any Progreſs in that Affair, and I am capable of being very well ſatisfied with the freſh Aſſurances of the Affection of the King of *England*, as to what concerns my Intereſts: For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at St. Germain-en-Laye, *the* 20th *Day of* November, 1677.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *November* 20. 1677.

Gentlemen,

HOW great Satisfaction ſoever the *States-General* may have, upon the News which has been imparted to them, as to what the King is willing to do for their Commerce; I think you ought

ought not to expect, that Monſieur *Beverning* ſhould notifie to you, the Reſolution they have taken about that Affair, before they communicate the ſame to the Prince of *Orange*.

It is very probable, that the Joy which Madam *Temple* expreſs'd upon the Marriage of that Prince, is a Mark of the Part her Husband had in the accompliſhing of it; but 'tis moſt certain, that the King has no Reaſon in the World to look upon that Affair as in any wiſe prejudicial to his Intereſts.

That which *Don Ronquillo* has repreſented to you, touching the Offers which were made by the Nuncio, for ſuſpending the Proceſſes begun at *Liſle*, againſt thoſe who are poſſeſs'd of Lands belonging to His Majeſty's Juriſdiction, provided the ſame thing were done at *Bruſſels*, with Reſpect to Monſieur *de Quiney* and others, is not a Mark that the *Spaniards* would afford much Facility on their part, for the Succeſs of that Affair.

I ſent you word eight Days ago, That the Mareſchal *de Crequi* had inveſted *Friburg*, and now, Gentlemen, I can tell you the News which His Majeſty has lately receiv'd of the Taking of that Town. The Enemy are retir'd into the Caſtle, where Preparations are making to attack them with the ſame Vigour, and according to all Appearance, with the ſame Succeſs. I am, Gentlemen, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *November* 23. 1677.

SIR,

WE have but little to ſend you word this Poſt, but we hope, by way of Recompence, to have a great deal of Matter againſt the next. Monſieur *Beverning* arriv'd here the Day before Yeſterday in the Evening: He ſent Monſieur *Hulſt* to us Yeſterday to tell us, That if he did not come to ſee us, he thought himſelf oblig'd to viſit the Allies that Day; the rather, becauſe it was a Day of Conference, at which he deſign'd to be preſent, and if he came firſt to our Houſes, they would take Umbrage thereupon; but that he would go thither without fail to Day or to Morrow. We cannot judge by the Diſcourſe of Monſieur *Hulſt*, whether Monſieur *Beverning* will confine himſelf to the Affair of the Commerce, or whether in this firſt Conference, he will enter, with us, upon the Point of the Barrier in the *Low-Countries*.

We give ourſelves the Honour, Sir, to ſend you the Writing which the Nuncio and the *Engliſh* Mediators deliver'd to us on the part of the Allies: Thoſe Gentlemen, who brought it to us, judge (as you ſee, without doubt, in reading it) this Memorial to be needleſs; neither do we believe we ought to return an Anſwer thereto; at leaſt, we ſhall not do it ſo ſoon. We ſhall ſee by the Conferences we are to have with Monſieur *Beverning*, what Turn the Affairs will take; and we are perſuaded, That when the *Imperial* Ambaſſadors ſhall have ſincere Intentions to the promoting of the Peace, they will without Difficulty admit the Envoy of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

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LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors.
Dated *November* 25. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; what I have been willing to do, in Favour of the Commerce of the *States-General*, when I empower'd you to conſent, that the Duties of Importation, which are rais'd on their Merchandizes, ſhould be regulated according to the Tariff of 1664, is ſo advantageous to them, that I doubt not but Monſieur *Beverning* is fully ſatisfied therewith, ſo that I promiſe myſelf, conformably to what Monſieur *Hulſt* has written thereof, that he will make a good uſe of it, to diſpoſe his Maſters to Peace. 'Tis not but that there is likelihood enough, that they will make no poſitive Reſolution, till the Return of the Prince of *Orange*; but there will be always a great deal, that the Concluſion of ſo Important a Point, may inſpire their Tempers with very favourable Diſpoſitions for Peace.

They wrote to me lately, touching ſome Fiſhing Veſſels which have been taken from them, to deſire me to order a Reſtitution to be made thereof; becauſe they pretend, that thoſe Prizes were taken contrary to the Order which I had caus'd to be publiſh'd. I did not think fit to anſwer them myſelf, and I judg'd it would be more expedient that I ſhould charge you to do it: For that end, my Intention is, that you tell Monſieur *Beverning*, That I receiv'd the Letter, which his Maſters wrote to me; that I had already order'd that that Affair ſhould be debated and determin'd in my Council: That ſome of thoſe Ships were declar'd there as lawful Prize, becauſe they made their

Defence, and committed Hoſtilities againſt my Subjects: That as for thoſe which ſtill remain'd, and on which the Judgment is not yet decided; altho' the Privateers made it appear, that they went out of my Ports, before my Order was publiſh'd there, and the Placaert of the *States-General* could be known; nevertheleſs, I am willing to cauſe them to be releas'd, and that they make good the Damage of the *French* Ships, which their Privateers took in the Fiſhery, which they ſtill retain in their Ports, or for which they have caus'd a Ranſom to be paid: Beſides, the Inconvenience which I have experienc'd, that my Subjects receive from this Ordinance, when all the Advantage thereof accru'd to the *States-General*, made me take a Reſolution to revoke it; and 'twas partly this induc'd me return no Anſwer to the Letter, which they wrote to me; becauſe that wiſhing without doubt as much as they do, the Continuation of that Decree, they could find nothing in my Letter, to ſatisfie their Deſire and their Hopes. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at St. Germain-en-Laye, *the* 25*th of* November, 1677.

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *November* 25, 1677.

Gentlemen,

YOU have heard, that the Mareſchal *de Crequi* has made himſelf Maſter not only of the Town of *Friburg*, but alſo of the Caſtle. This Conqueſt

Conqueſt, ſo glorious for the Arms of the King, ends the Campagne with Advantage, and will undoubtedly alter the Meaſures which the *Imperialiſts* had taken, for the ſettling of their Quarters. I am, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *November* 26. 1677.

SIRE,

MOnſieur *Beverning* came to ſee us on *Wedneſday* in the Evening; he expreſs'd to us his Joy at the new Marks which your Majeſty gave his Maſters, of the Honour of your Affection, in vouchſafing to remit the Tariff of 1664; that as ſoon as he heard that News, he went privately from Town to Town, to diſcourſe with Perſons on whom depend the Direction of thoſe Affairs, to examine this, and take with them a final Reſolution: That this was the only Method which he could make uſe of, to keep that Negotiation ſecret, and not to aſſemble the *States* in Form: That there ſtill remain'd ſome Difficulties; but before he explain'd them to us, he was very deſirous to tell us, that thoſe Difficulties would not ſtop the ſigning of the Treaty; ſince, in one Word, his Maſters were content with the Abatement which your Majeſty had been pleas'd to grant them: That they accepted of it, and moſt humbly thank'd you; but they beſeech'd you, at the ſame time, to conſider, that in the Tariff of 1664, exceſſive Duties are paid for refined Sugar, which is laid at 15 *per* Hundred Weight, which is ſold in *France* at 30, or thereabouts; and that it was

impoſſible the Refiners of Sugars ſhould find their Expectations anſwer'd therein, notwithſtanding it was one of the principal Commodities which the City of *Amſterdam* traded in.

Having declared to Monſieur *Beverning* our Joy, that his Maſters had receiv'd, as they ought to do, thoſe Marks of your Majeſty's Friendſhip; and having made him our Compliments upon the Diſpatch and Skill with which he had manag'd that Affair; we gave him to underſtand, that your Majeſty taking a general Tariff for a Rule of the future Impoſts, no Alteration could be made therein, without great Inconveniencies; and that we did not believe that he could, at preſent, ſo much as propoſe that Affair, with a due Decorum. He agreed thereto, in ſome meaſure, with us, and told us, he hop'd that your Majeſty would conſider it, when his Maſters ſhould re-enter into the Honour of your Favour: That he only intreated us to inform you thereof, to the end that when his Maſters ſhould, one day, cauſe mention to be made of it to your Majeſty, by their Ambaſſadors, it would not appear to you to be a new Demand; and that you knew that from this very Inſtant, they had told us, they look'd upon it as a Grievance.

Monſieur *Beverning* inſiſted a little farther upon what relates to the collecting of the Impoſt of 50 Sols *per* Ton. He ask'd us, in the firſt place, whether when your Majeſty explain'd yourſelf, that this Duty ſhould be levied but once upon every Veſſel, you would expreſs it clearly and deciſively; ſo that it may be ſaid, that the Acquittance which ſhould be given for a Veſſel, upon its going out of the Port, ſhould ſerve as a Diſcharge, when it ſhould paſs into another, to take in the reſt of its Lading.

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In the ſecond place, he told us, that when a Veſſel is laden with Salt, by the Treaty of 662, it is only obliged to pay half the Duty: Nevertheleſs, a Veſſel which ſhall take in half its Lading of Wine, and which for its entire Cargo, ſhall go and take up Salt in another place, it would not be juſt to make it pay for the entire Capacity of its Burden, upon the Foot of 50 Sols *per* Tonn; but that it ought only to pay, for Example, one half on that Foot, and half of the other half for its Lading of Salt.

We told him, that all thoſe things would be eaſily adjuſted, when, in the Sequel, they ſhould repreſent to your Majeſty, that Frauds are committed therein; but that the Buſineſs now in hand was only to regulate the principal Points of the Affair. Thereupon he ask'd us, whether as to the third Head of Complaint, a Regulation could not be made therein, at preſent; that is to ſay, for the meaſuring of the Ship. He did not demand, (as his Secretaries ſignified) that it ſhould be done in their Ports, at the time of the building of the Veſſels; but he demanded that when their Ships entery for the firſt time, into a Port of *France*, the Meaſuring ſhould be performed there, with all the Formalities which your Majeſty ſhould be pleaſed to preſcribe: That the Conſul they have in that Place be ſent for thither; and that then they make one, two, or as many Marks as they pleaſe, upon the Veſſel, expreſſing its Capacity; after which, that Veſſel ſhall be no more meaſured. He affirms, that there can be no Fraud therein, in regard that thoſe Marks may be put in places, from whence it is impoſſible to take them away; and beſides, that the Merchants apply themſelves, every one, to a certain ſort of Traffick; inſomuch that the ſame Ships will, as it were, go always to the ſame Place. He alſo added,

ed, that if they would have new Meaſurings made every time thoſe Ships ſhould arrive, he would not oppoſe it, provided it were done without Expence; but that it was not juſt to make them at the Coſt of the Traders, and to put them to ſo much Charge, to no purpoſe. After having a little diſcuſs'd this Matter with Monſ. *Beverning*, and having aſſur'd him, that we would give an Account thereof to your Majeſty; he told us, he ſhould be very glad ſo far to forward this Buſineſs, that when they ſhould agree upon the other Treaty, there might be no more to do, but to ſign this; ſo that he took upon him to ſend us, this Morning, (as he has done) a Scheme of a Treaty, ſuch as his Maſters deſire it, to the end that we may have the Honour of ſending it to your Majeſty; and that if you conſent to grant all the Articles which he ſhall draw up according to the Demands of the *States*, which we expreſs'd to him to be your Majeſty's Intentions; a Copy of this Treaty ſhould be kept on both ſides, to be ſign'd when we ſhould agree upon the reſt. We agreed with him upon that Point, and upon another, under your good Pleaſure, which relates to the manner how we ought to demean ourſelves, as ſoon as we ſhould have receiv'd your Majeſty's Anſwer: That is to ſay, that he, Monſieur *Beverning*, and Monſieur *Haeren*, ſhould go to the Mediators, and give them a Memorial of their Claims, touching their Commerce; that we ſhould return an Anſwer thereto, by another Memorial; and that afterwards having agreed together, we ſhould draw up, with the Mediators, a Scheme like to that which your Majeſty has approv'd of.

It remains for us to ſpeak of the Security which he demanded for his Maſters, for the Execution of what your Majeſty gives them hopes to obtain,

touching

touching the Diminution of the Duties upon the Tariff of 1664. He told us, a Thought came into his Head, which was, that we ſhould paſs our Words to the Mediators; but at the ſame time, he likewiſe told us, that he believ'd they were not very favourable, as to what concerns the Commerce. Then he ask'd us, whether we could not give him a Writing, by which we ſhould promiſe, that your Majeſty would reduce Matters to the Foot of 1664. For, Sire, we don't tell you, that we have entirely rejected the Propoſal of inſerting nothing in a Treaty; and as to that Writing, we declar'd to him, that our Word was as valid as a Writing; and that if he could believe that a Failure might be made therein, he might alſo imagine, that a Failure might be made in a Writing: That, in a Word, we could not give one, ſince it would be of the ſame Conſequence to your Majeſty, as if we ſhould inſert ſomething in the Treaty. Then he confin'd himſelf to deſire of us, that we would promiſe him, that when your Majeſty ſhould ſend us your Ratification, you would, at the ſame time, tranſmit to us an Arreſt of your Council, or Declaration, in ſuch manner as you think fit, for the Re-eſtabliſhment of the Tariff of 1664. We made ſome Scruple to him to produce any Act of your Majeſty, of the ſame Date with the Ratification, and we only undertook to give an Account of it to you. Monſieur *Beverning* declared to us afterwards, that he did not believe that we ſhould meet with much Difficulty together, as to what remain'd, with reſpect to the *States-General*: That he had wrote to the Prince of *Orange* for his Intereſts, and that he ſpeedily expected an entire Explanation thereof. He only told us, by the way, that he hop'd that in caſe your Majeſty retain'd the *Franche-Comte*, you would deliver up to

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the Prince of *Orange*, all the Demeans he enjoy'd when your Majesty conquer'd that Province, which are those wherein the Princes of *Orange* were re-establish'd, by the Treaty made at *Munster*, between *Spain* and the *States-General*. Forasmuch as we have no positive Orders, as to what relates to the Prince of *Orange*, we contented ourselves with telling Monsieur *Beverning*, that when he should receive his Instructions concerning the Interests of that Prince, we would discuss them together; and that he might well believe, that your Majesty would give him always Marks of your Friendship, when that Prince should entertain such Sentiments as he ought to do, with respect to you. From thence, Monsieur *Beverning* fell to the Restitution of *Maestricht*. We sufficiently gave him to understand, that before we discours'd upon that Article, it would be requisite to know, what Measures to take therein with *Spain* and the *States*. He also made a sufficient Discovery of what your Majesty's Intention might be thereupon; insomuch that this gave him Occasion to represent to us, that he was not at present capacitated to treat of the Affair of the *Netherlands*. He told us, that he wrote thereof to the Prince of *Orange*, but that he had receiv'd no positive Answer from him: That he did not know whether any Scheme was made thereof in *England*, with which Sir *William Temple* might be charged; and that they should have no more to do, than to exchange here a small matter, for some Places more or less: That, perhaps, also, he, *Beverning*, should be obliged to go to the *Hague*, upon the Return of the Prince of *Orange*, to know more positively the Intentions of that Prince, who only wrote to him very confusedly; and that, in a Word, till then, he could not enter upon a Conference with us, about that Affair.

These,

Theſe, Sire, are the Terms in which we continu'd with Monſieur *Beverning*, who appear'd to us to act with great Sincerity, and to have a very earneſt Deſire of concluding a good Treaty of Peace.

Sire, Count *Oxenſtiern* came to us Yeſterday-morning, and told us, that Count *Horn* had intreated him to notify to us, that the *Swediſh* Army in *Livonia* was ready to march, but that they durſt not, becauſe Monſieur *Path* gave them to underſtand, he would oppoſe their Paſſage. He extremely exaggerated this Affair to us. Whereupon we anſwer'd him, that the Marquis *de Bethune*, who was upon the Spot, was the Perſon who could give Orders more favourably; and before your Majeſty's Anſwers could arrive, the Time of acting with his Troops would be elapſed. Nevertheleſs, we promis'd him to write about it to your Majeſty, altho' we have ſome Suſpicion, that thoſe Complaints of Count *Oxenſtiern* are affected, and that the *Sweder* are not, perhaps, diſpoſed, nor in a Condition to ſend their Troops out of *Livonia*. The Marquis *de Bethune* can inform your Majeſty better of this Matter than we, who only ſpeak of it by Conjecture. At the ſame time, we were inform'd by Monſieur *de Pomponne*'s Letter, of the Reduction of *Friburg* to your Majeſty's Obedience; we heard by Letters from *Germany*, of the Taking of the Caſtle of the ſaid Town. So great a Conqueſt, which ſo glorioufly concludes ſo brave a Campagne, ought to convince your Majeſty's Enemies, that the more they ſhall put off the Peace, the more they will promote your Glory. We are, with a profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *November* 26. 1677.

SIR,

YOU may perceive by the Letter we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, that Monſieur *Beverning* has not ſtaid for the Return of the Prince of *Orange*, entirely to put an end to the Affair of Commerce with us. So ſincere a Procedure on his part, gives good Hopes of the Sequel; and we ought to believe, that as ſoon as that Miniſter ſhall be at Liberty to go upon that Affair, he will do it with the ſame Diligence, and the ſame Secrecy.

Sir, we expect the King's Orders, as to the manner in which we ſhall deal with the Mediators; whether his Majeſty approves of the Expedient we have made uſe of; and whether he thinks it conducive to his Intereſt, forthwith to give the People of *Holland* to underſtand, the Advantage they will meet with for their Commerce, as ſoon as the Treaty of Peace ſhould be ſign'd.

We are inform'd, Sir, that the *Imperial* Miniſters are under ſome Apprehenſion, that the *States-General* are making an Accommodation with us, and treating, at the ſame time, for the *Spaniards*; ſo that the Emperor will be abandon'd by two ſuch conſiderable Allies. On *Monday* laſt, they diſpatch'd a Courier to the Court of *Vienna*, to know what they ought to do in this Conjuncture.

Foraſmuch

Foraſmuch as we have but juſt receiv'd this Scheme, and have neither time to examine it, nor to decypher it; we thought, Sir, we ought to inſert the Title you will find therein, which is only to amuſe thoſe into whoſe Hands it may fall, who ought not to lay great Streſs upon a Scheme we have drawn up of our own Heads, and which has never yet been communicated to any body. You may perceive, Sir, in the Article, That Monſieur *Beverning* has inſerted the Clauſes he demands, as if they were granted, tho' they are not; ſo that the King may ſtrike out what he pleaſes. As to what relates alſo to the Preamble, and ſome other Declarations of that Treaty; be pleas'd, Sir, to do us the Honour to inform us, whether His Majeſty would have us alter any thing therein; or whether he would preſcribe it us, after the very ſame manner, and in the Terms which he would have the Treaty expreſs'd. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors,*
Dated *November* 30. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE Letter you were pleas'd to write to me, of the 19th inſtant, gave the King to underſtand, what you had learnt by Monſieur *Hulſt*, of Monſieur *Beverning*'s Sentiments, touching the Abatement His Majeſty is diſpos'd to grant, of the Duties of Importation, upon the Foot of the Tariff of 1664, when your laſt Letter of the 25th, inform'd His Majeſty, of the Return of that Miniſter

to

to *Nimeguen*. Forasmuch as he ought to visit you the next Day, His Majesty expects with a certain Curiosity, to know what pass'd between you: He cannot doubt, but *Holland* is affected with that so favourable an Overture as you made, and that the Advantage which ought to redound to them from thence, for their Commerce, may render them more dispos'd to Peace. Perhaps, he will so much insist upon that Point, as to wave others, which may conduce to Peace, particularly that of the Barrier in *Flanders*, on which the *States* appear'd so very intent; if they expect the Prince of *Orange*'s Return into *Holland* before they enter farther upon Business. By all the Assurances which the King of *England* has taken Care to give His Majesty, the Intentions of that Prince are well dispos'd for Peace, and will be farther augmented, by the King his Uncle: Nevertheless, we must refer our Judgment in this, to the Effects, and the Manner after which the Ambassadors of *Holland* shall act at *Nimeguen*. Gentlemen, There is no Answer more ealie to make, than that which the Memorial requires, which was lately deliver'd to you by the Mediators: One cannot see for what Reason the Allies should claim that you answer their Proposals, when they do not answer yours; and what Right they have to demand an Explanation of you, when they give you none as to the Demands you made. There is yet more Justice to insist, That Things continue in the State wherein the Fortune of Arms has plac'd them, than to make Restitutions and Recompences in a War, which was declar'd against *France*. There is no less Injustice not to acknowledge the Bishop of *Strasburg*'s Minister, to treat that Prince as a Vassal of the Emperor, and to refuse to comprehend him in the Number of His Majesty's Allies: So that while the Confederates keep to those general Terms, you

may

may also, Gentlemen, with more Reason, confine yourselves to the first Proposals which you made, and expect Offers more proportion'd to the bad Condition of their Affairs.

The King has seen the Copy of the Writing, which the Bishop of *Paderborn* sent to Monsieur *Duker*: His Majesty is very glad to understand thereby, That that Prince is free from all Engagement hitherto, and that he is capacitated to hearken to the Proposals which may be made him: He is sensible of what His Majesty can desire of him, which would be to enter from this time into a Treaty of Neutrality, to recal the Troops which he has in the Party of the King's Enemies, and to oblige himself also to continue Neuter, till he is made Bishop of *Munster*. It seems sufficient, that he should be certify'd of what His Majesty desires of him; it would be his Business to declare, under what Conditions he would enter into an Engagement with His Majesty; and this is what Monsieur *Duker* may know of him. There is no doubt, but he will require Subsidies; and it may be supposed, that he will demand them different, some in Proportion to his present State, others adequate to a more valuable one, which he may attain to, by being Bishop of *Munster*. The whole is, that he explain himself upon both, to the end that His Majesty may regulate upon his Demands, what he thinks convenient: Whereas the said Bishop of *Paderborn* seems to expect Offers to be made to him; 'tis requisite to cause him to declare his Pretensions. This may be manag'd by Monsieur *Duker*; and 'tis but just that since he is already inform'd of what His Majesty desires of him, His Majesty may be certify'd of the Conditions he would annex to the Engagements, into which he would enter with him. Gentlemen, he leaves this to your Care; and you may judge without doubt,

that

that 'tis requiſite to cauſe that Prince to ſpeak firſt, upon the Conditions which he expects from His Majeſty when he engages with him. I am moſt really, Gentlemen, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *November* 30. 1677.

SIR,

IF it be true, that the Allies only wait for the Return of the Prince of *Orange*, to treat of Peace (as they have given us to underſtand) the Taking of *Friburg*, and all the ill Conſequences on their ſide, which the ſaid Conqueſt, and that of *Walquerk* and *Hochberg* give them Reaſon to apprehend, ought to make them wiſh, with an extreme Impatience, to ſee that Prince very ſpeedily, to know of him, after what manner they may put an end to a War, which the King finds Means to carry on twelve Months in a Year, without any Interruption between one Campagne and another.

Sir, it cannot be expreſs'd to you, in what Conſternation theſe laſt Conqueſts have put the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, and with what Aſtoniſhment and Admiration, all the other Miniſters, who are here, ſpeak of His Majeſty's Power and Conduct; while they make Reflexions upon the Misfortune it is to be his Enemies, and the preſſing Neceſſity of a ſpeedy Reconciliation with *France*. We have made our Remarks upon the Scheme of the Treaty, which Monſieur *Beverning* put into our Hands, and which we ſent laſt Poſt. You will ſee, Sir, by the Memorial hereto annex'd, all our Obſervations; the

the principal whereof are, firſt in the 7th Article of the Omiſſion of the Exception, made by the 20th of the Year 1662, by reaſon of the Privilege granted to the Company, which has undertaken the whole Fiſhery: So that if that Privilege ſtill ſubſiſts (which we know not) we doubt not but His Majeſty will order us to take care, that the Clauſe which maintains it be re-inſerted.

The other Remark, of any Importance, is upon the 12th Article, which incapacitates the Officers of the Admiralty, from taking out of *Dutch* Veſſels, the *French* Seamen, and other Subjects of His Majeſty: And altho' the Reciprocal ſhould be ſtipulated in Favour of the *French* Ships; yet perhaps His Majeſty would not find therein an equal Advantage, no more than in the 13th Article, which confounding the 26th and 36th of the Treaty of 1662, extends the Faculty of Commerce from one, with the Enemies of the other, ſo far as to take away the Liberty of Examining to whom the Propriety of a Ship and the Merchandizes belong: So that a Maſter with *Dutch* Mariners, in a Ship, whoſe whole Propriety and Cargo ſhall belong to the Enemies of *France*, will ſecure them from all Confiſcation, by theſe Words, *without diſtinguiſhing who are the Owners*; which is directly contrary to all the Sea-Laws. You may perceive, Sir, That indeed the 26th and 36th Articles of 1662, have ſomething which is Equivalent; but it ſeems to us, That that does not amount to the Totality of the Veſſel and Merchandizes; and that the ſaid Articles ought only to extend to ſome Part of the Merchandizes, belonging to Enemies, and on board the Veſſels of Friends. If this Obſervation appears to His Majeſty of any Weight, we ſhall inſiſt to re-inſert in that Scheme, what is contain'd in the 26th and 36th Articles of 1662, and entirely to ſuppreſs the 13th of the Scheme; There are

alſo

alſo ſeveral ſmall Alterations in the Words, which are not very intelligible, and which changing the Senſe a little, ſtand in need of being reduc'd to Terms more pure, and better *French*, or rather, to the ſame that were made uſe of in the Treaty of 1662.

Sir, as to the Preamble, we annex to our Letter, a ſmall Scheme of that of 1662, which is more ſuitable (according to our Opinion) to the King's Dignity: What you may pleaſe, Sir, to amend therein, either by adding or diminiſhing, will render it ſtill more agreeable to our Mode.

Altho' the laſt Writing, which the Miniſters of the Allies caus'd to be deliver'd to us by the Mediators, ought to be conſider'd only, as needleſs Bombaſt, which deſerves no Anſwer: Nevertheleſs, Sir, ſome of them, and among the reſt, *Don Ronquillo*, having urg'd to us, That we had no Power to make the leaſt Step, unleſs directed by freſh Orders; we thought it expedient for the King's Service, and the Honour of his Embaſſy, to give them, without delay, the Anſwer of which we ſend you a Copy; the rather, becauſe it is almoſt like that which you have already ſeen, and which you ſent us word was approv'd by His Majeſty. However, the Ambaſſadors of *England* came to make us great Inſtances, to correct that Writing; telling us, that the King their Maſter order'd them, not to take upon them the Charge of any one, which might breed any Animoſity between the Parties. We anſwer'd them, That ours contain'd only Truths, which are known to them, and which, we did not believe, have exceeded the Moderation, which ought to be kept in that Aſſembly: That nevertheleſs, we would entirely refer it to their Prudence, either to declare the Subſtance thereof verbally, or to dictate our Writing in the manner as it is expreſs'd: That they very well knew, we always maintain'd the former way,

as

as the beſt; and that 'twas only by reaſon we were fatigu'd with the Writings of the Allies, who charge us with the Delay of the Peace, and amuſe the People with thoſe Flams; that we ſaw ourſelves oblig'd to make a ſmall Recapitulation of all the Diligence, which has been us'd on the part of the King, to give Tranquillity to *Chriſtendom*: The ſaid Mediators alſo took time to conſult among themſelves, what they had to do: We will give you an Account of what Reſolution they ſhall have taken, by the firſt Poſt. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *December* 3. 1677.

SIR,

THE Letter which you receiv'd from us laſt Poſt, and that which we alſo wrote to Monſieur *de Seignelay*, have anſwer'd before-hand what is contain'd in the King's Diſpatch of the 25th of *November*, and entirely exhauſted what could make us take the Freedom of Writing to His Majeſty: Neither do we believe, That before the Return of the Prince of *Orange*, or the Anſwer touching the Concluſion of the Treaty of Commerce ſeems to be fixed, any thing will happen, which deſerves that we ſhould do ourſelves the Honour to inform him of directly.

In the mean time, we have left as well to the Nuncio, as to the Ambaſſadors of *England*, an entire Liberty, to frame our Anſwer to the firſt Writing of the Allies, after the manner as they ſhall judge expedient: And we believe, they'll confine themſelves to ſhew them, by Word of Mouth, That the

Admiſſion of the Biſhop of *Strasburg*'s Miniſter, is ſo much the more reaſonable, in regard the ſame Arguments, which the *Imperial* Ambaſſadors laid down, to ſend him back to the Diet of *Ratisbon*, were diſcuſs'd before the Diſpatching of the Paſports; and that without having reſpect thereto, the Emperor was oblig'd to grant his, in Favour of the ſaid Miniſter, and the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, as Plenipotentiary: That moreover the Clauſe of *The Allies who are in War*, inſerted by the Confederates in the Draught of the Full-Powers, having been rejected by us, and reduc'd by general Conſent, to the ſingle Term of *Allies*, without any other Addition; and for the ſole Reaſon, becauſe the Biſhop of *Straſburg*, tho' an Ally of *France*, yet was not in War; that Difference ought to be reputed, as terminated and judg'd by thoſe two Acts. To tell you the truth, Sir, we were reſolv'd to reſerve thoſe two peremptory and deciſive Arguments for another Reply, for fear of putting an end too ſoon to a Difference, which 'tis our Intereſt to prolong, that we may not be oblig'd to anſwer the Demands of Prince *Charles*: But Monſieur *Duker* has ſo much importun'd the Mediators to make uſe thereof; that it was not lawful for us to oppoſe, what makes ſtill more for us, than what we gave in Writing; and which we omitted, only for a Deſign which we ought not to ſuffer to be diſcover'd. We are, Sir, &c.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *December* 7. 1677.

SIR,

WE receiv'd the Letter you was pleas'd to write to us, of the 30th *ult.* You have ſeen by our laſt Diſpatches, what paſs'd in the Conference we had with Monſieur *Beverning*, touching Commerce. We believe that he will wait for the Return of the Prince of *Orange*, before he explains himſelf, as to the Barrier which the *States-General* have always ſeem'd to deſire.

We have given an Anſwer to the Mediators, upon the laſt Memorials of the Allies, which oblig'd us to nothing, and whereof we have ſent you the Copy. But they came to us ſince, and deſir'd us to conſent that they might not deliver it ſo ſoon; becauſe the King of *England* has not approv'd, that they ſhould be preſent in the Conferences with Count *Anthony*; and that he has alſo forbid them to aſſociate with him, till that Miniſter has paid the Reſpect due to the Character of Mediators; ſo that they have their Hands ty'd, and cannot act ſince thoſe laſt Orders.

We are apprehenſive, That the Obſtinacy of the King of *England*, in refuſing the Expedients that were propos'd, to facilitate thoſe Viſits, will draw on a greater Inconveniency; and that the Difficulties which may ariſe in the Sequel of that Debate, will incline the *Imperial* and the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors, to find out Means to exempt themſelves (as much as they can) from acting by the Mediators

of *England*. We agreed with them, upon the Reſolution they took, not to give the Allies an Anſwer, on our part, till they have receiv'd the freſh Orders, which they expect from the King their Maſter, as to the manner how they ought to act in this Affair. Sir, we conform ourſelves in this Anſwer, to the King's Intentions, and to what you preſcrib'd us by your Diſpatch.

Sir, we have made known to Monſieur *Duker*, That the King has heard with Pleaſure, that the Biſhop of *Paderborn* has not yet enter'd into any Engagement; and we deſir'd him to give that Prince to underſtand, That being certainly inform'd, as he is, of what his Majeſty can deſire of him, *viz.* that he would enter, from this Inſtant, into a Treaty of Neutrality; that he would recal the Troops he has in the Service of the Allies; and that he would oblige himſelf to continue Neuter when he ſhould be Biſhop of *Munſter*; it was now his Buſineſs to declare himſelf, upon what Conditions he would enter into theſe Engagements. Monſieur *Duker*, to whom we repreſented, that there was but little time to loſe for that purpoſe, has promis'd us, to write about it this Poſt. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *December* 9. 1677.

Gentlemen,

ALtho' I receiv'd your Diſpatches of the 26th and 30th *ult.* and have had the Honour to read them to the King, and have alſo ſhewn him the Draught of the Treaty of Commerce, which was deliver'd to you by Monſieur *Beverning*, with the Remarks you made thereon; nevertheleſs, I ſhall not yet ſignifie to you his Sentiments as to that Point: His Majeſty is willing firſt to examine, what the *States* would alter or add in the Treaty of 1662, as well as the Explanation they deſire as to the collecting of the 50 Sols *per* Ton. Therefore, Gentlemen, I ſhall refer to another Poſt, giving you more poſitive Inſtructions as to his Intentions upon thoſe Articles: But I believe I may tell you before-hand, That ſince thoſe Differences are not very material, it will not be difficult either to adjuſt them, or to induce the *States-General* not to inſiſt on them any longer. That which is Important for them, is the Favour His Majeſty has granted them, in condeſcending to remit the Impoſts, upon the Foot of the Tariff of 1664. When His Majeſty ſhall have diſcuſs'd that Matter, he will notifie to you his Sentiments, as to the manner how you may make the Agreement of that Treaty publick, by depoſiting it (if he thinks fit) in the Hands of the Mediators, not to take Place till after the Peace. I doubt not but he will alſo approve of the Alteration you judge expedient to

make in the Preamble; and to render it more conformable (even as you have deſign'd) to the Treaty of 1662.

Forasmuch as the Anſwer you gave to the Memorial of the Miniſters of the Allies, contains only a bare Recital of the manner, how things have happen'd, ſince you have been at *Nimeguen*, and of the facile Methods which His Majeſty has here laid down for a Peace; it could give no juſt Pretence to the Mediators, to refuſe taking it upon them: But the Liberty that you left them, either to give the ſaid Writing, or to notifie your Sentiments to the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, will put them in a Capacity of convincing them of the Injuſtice with which they charge *France* with the Delay of the Negotiation, which they alone have render'd ineffectual.

The whole Article which relates to the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, cannot better ſhew the Reaſons which you had to obſerve, with reſpect to Prince *Charles*, the ſame Conduct as the Emperor's Miniſters obſerve, with reſpect to His Majeſty's Allies. Since Monſieur *Beverning* is return'd to *Nimeguen*, I doubt not, Gentlemen, but you have inform'd him, according to the Order I ſent you from His Majeſty, of what he has judg'd expedient to do, touching the Veſſels, which the *States-General* complain'd were ſtopp'd by the *French* Privateers, and the Reaſons that induc'd his Majeſty not to anſwer the Letter which the *States General* directed to me, for him; at the ſame time, that he took a Reſolution, to revoke the Decree, by which he granted the Liberty of Fiſhing. I expect, Gentlemen, by the firſt Poſt, the Anſwer you are to return me on that Affair.

The Siege of *St. Guillain*, where the Trenches are open'd in four Places, is advanc'd ſo far, and with ſo little Reſiſtance, on the part of the Enemy, that

that according to Aſſurances, which his Majeſty receiv'd from thence this Day, he has reaſon to expect, that that Place will be by to-morrow or next Day in his Hands. This Conqueſt will produce, without doubt, in *Flanders*, the ſame Effect as that of *Friburg* has done in *Germany*, and will completely end a Year, which is already ſo full of Glory for his Majeſty. I am, Gentlemen, with Reality, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *December* 10. 1677.

SIR,

THE Return of the Prince of *Orange* being retarded, by a contrary Wind, and all the Affairs in this Country being ſuſpended till his Arrival, we have nothing to inform you of by this Poſt: The Aſſembly of the *States* of *Holland* which was to have been open'd in *November* laſt, is put off to the 16th inſtant, in hopes that the Prince of *Orange* will arrive by that time; which ſhews the great Eſteem which the *States*, and the Province of *Holland* have, Sir, *&c.*

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *December* 14. 1677.

SIR,

WE have already done ourſelves the Honour, to give you an Account of the Reaſon, which hinder'd the Mediators from appearing in the Aſſembly of the Allies, by the Prohibition they receiv'd from the King of *Great-Britain*, to go thither, while Count *Anthony* is there. The Ambaſſadors of *England*, who are apprehenſive with ſome Grounds, that this Procedure would be injurious to Count *Anthony*, and farther induce him to pay the firſt Reſpects to the *Imperial* Ambaſſadors, to their Prejudice, ſent a Remonſtrance to the King of *England*, That they made no Scruple to go to the Aſſembly of the Allies, when the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, *Don Pedro Ronquillo*, the Biſhop of *Gurk*, and other Ambaſſadors were there preſent; altho' they had not yet given them any Notice of their Arrival: That therefore, this Diſtinction which they would make with reſpect to Count *Anthony*, might offend the King of *Denmark*; that hitherto that Ambaſſador had not fail'd in his Duty with reſpect to them, and that they ought not to ſuppoſe that he would do it. But the King of *Great-Britain* ſent them word, That the other Ambaſſadors had always been very well diſpos'd to render to his Mediation, what was due thereto: That it was known that Count *Anthony*, on the contrary, made a Difficulty therein; and that as long as he refus'd to pay to his Ambaſſadors, the ſame Honours as the others had done; he not only prohi-

prohibited them to appear with him in the Aſſembly, but even order'd them to acquaint the Ambaſſadors of the Allies, that they had this Prohibition; and that his Miniſters at *London* had Order to declare it to all the Envoys of the Allies, who were at his Court. The Mediators came to communicate this Affair to us, which they thought could not be kept ſecret, two Days longer, even altho' they ſhould not reveal it: So that, Sir, we had nothing to do, but to thank them for the Truſt they repos'd in us. We cannot tell you, what Turn this Affair will take; for the Mediators give way very much. They only ſpoke to Monſieur *Beverning*, to deſire him to tell it to the Allies, but he did not think fit to do it. In the mean time, we have been inform'd ſince, and the Mediators likewiſe know it, That the Emperor's Ambaſſadors have been at the Houſes of thoſe of *Denmark*; (for they viſit Count *Anthony incognito*) and that they have declar'd, That the Emperor took it very ill, that they ſhould boggle any longer, to pay the Reſpect due to his Ambaſſadors; and the others being about to excuſe themſelves, the *Imperial* Miniſters told them, That the Emperor always look'd upon it as injurious, that Count *Anthony* ſhould defer the giving Notice of his Arrival. So haughty a Procedure well deſerv'd that the Mediators ſhould execute their Orders, with ſome Vigour; but Sir *Lionel Jenkins* is afraid to offend Perſons; and Monſieur *Hide* ſet out Yeſterday to meet the Prince of *Orange*, who is this Day to make his Entry into the *Hague*, apparently to be with the *States*, who are to meet to-morrow.

Sir *Lionel Jenkins* juſt now ſent us the preſent Memorial, for the Deputies of *Liege*, whom the Elector of *Cologn* is to ſend to *Nimeguen*: We wait for the Anſwer which the King would be pleas'd that we ſhould make thereto. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *December* 17. 1677.

SIR,

WE ſhould have had nothing to impart to you at this time, but our Joy for the Taking of *St. Guillain*, if the Duke of *Mecklemburg* had not directed this Letter to us for the King; and theſe Memorials, which we have wrote in Cyphers. Altho' that Prince makes ſuch Demands, as we think ought not to be granted to him; nevertheleſs, we thought ourſelves oblig'd to tranſmit them to you.

We annex likewiſe to this Letter, the Copy of the Treaty, made ſome time ago, by the Duke of *Newbourg*, with the Biſhop of *Munſter*, which we had from the Biſhop of *Paderborn*, who has promis'd Monſieur *Duker*, to give him alſo the Copy of a Treaty, whereby the Elector of *Cologn* is join'd in an Alliance with the two others.

We daily expect the Biſhop of *Paderborn*'s Anſwer to the Letter of Monſieur *Duker*, which preſſes him to explain himſelf, as to what he may deſire of His Majeſty: That Prelate ſent him word, in a Letter which we ſaw Yeſterday, That the Biſhop of *Munſter* decay'd every Day in Body and Mind, that he had even made his Will, and that in this Conjuncture he the Biſhop of *Paderborn* was very glad that the Troops of *Munſter* had repaſs'd the *Rhine*. We are, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *December* 18. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; What was given out by all the publick News, of ſome Propoſals made to me by the King of *Great-Britain*, while the Prince of *Orange* was with him, and the laſt News which I receiv'd from the Marquis *de Feuquieres*, gives me cauſe to write to you at this time.

He informs me, That Monſieur *Olivenkrants*, who was arriv'd at *Nimeguen*, was extremely pleas'd with the ſtrict Correſpondence which you have kept in all Things with him and his Collegues. I obſerv'd with Pleaſure, That he has given ſo faithful an Account of the Openneſs and Sincerity of Heart, with which I act towards the King his Maſter; but becauſe I would have you augment ſtill more and more the Satisfaction, which that Prince diſcovers therein, and would not have him by crediting the publick News, believe that I would hearken to Propoſals of Peace, without his Participation; I have thought fit to put you in a Capacity, of ſpeaking to Count *Oxenſtiern* upon that Point.

For this purpoſe, you may declare to him, That I have given you Orders to tell him, that indeed ſome Overtures, negotiated in all Appearance by the Prince of *Orange*, are come to my Hands; but ſuch as it appears, he only accommodated to the Intereſts of my Enemies, and not to thoſe of *Sweden* and mine: That therefore I refus'd to hearken to them, for theſe two Reaſons, and that I explain'd myſelf, as I always have done, as I ever

will do, and as I give you Orders to confirm to them, that I will not conſent to any Conditions of Peace, without the Participation and Conſent of *Sweden*.

I have caus'd the Scheme of the Treaty of Commerce, which was deliver'd to you by Monſieur *Beverning*, to be examin'd: I have obſerv'd, That in ſome Articles, he had varied from, or added to that of 1662; and foraſmuch as I am very deſirous to confine him within the ſaid Limits, I ſend you a Memorial, which contains all the Remarks I have made therein: I am thorowly perſuaded, That you will meet with no Difficulty, as to thoſe Points; ſince 'tis to renew the former Contracts I made with them; and I am ſtill diſpos'd to grant them the Favour, which you have promis'd them in my Name, to reduce the Impoſts to the Foot of the Tariff of 1664. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at St. Germain-en-Laye, *the* 18*th of* December, 1677.

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *December* 18. 1677.

Gentlemen,

I Could not ſend you ſooner, His Majeſty's Sentiments, as to the Affair of the Treaty of Commerce, which was communicated to you by Monſieur *Beverning*: I do it at this time, by the Memorial which ſhall be annex'd to this Diſpatch: He only

only retrenches ſeveral Clauſes which have been added to the Articles of the Treaty of 1662; and the *States* will have no Cauſe to find fault, that they are reduced to their Original. If you pleaſe, you may not make any Mention of the Article which takes away the Privilege of Train-Oil, becauſe that Point is not entirely concluded: But I will ſend you the Inſtructions thereon, by the next Poſt.

I doubt not, Gentlemen, but the News which will be arriv'd at *Nimeguen* before this Letter, that the King of *England* has call'd his Parliament for the 15th of next Month, will very much revive the Hopes of our Enemies. The King has but juſt now receiv'd Advice thereof, ſo that I cannot yet tell what are his Majeſty's Thoughts: I only know, that the Conſequences will not, in all Appearance, anſwer the Hopes which the Enemy may conceive from thence. Gentlemen, I am only to tell you, that I have receiv'd your Diſpatches of 3d and 7th inſtant; and to aſſure you of all the Reality wherewith I am, Gentlemen, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *December* 21. 1677.

SIR,

THere is nothing cooler, at preſent, than the Negotiation at *Nimeguen*. The Partizans of the Houſe of *Auſtria* are not contented with keeping a profound Silence, as to the Affairs of Peace; they would alſo deprive us of all manner of Commerce with them. That which the Ladies have

eſtabliſhed

eſtabliſhed interchangeably at their own Houſes, has not been renew'd by the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* his Lady, ſince her Return. She is contented with repaying Viſits, and does not appear in any Meeting. The Marquis her Husband, does the ſame, and Don *Pedro Ronquillo* likewiſe follows their Example. The Cauſe of this Diſorder is imputed to the King, who vexes thoſe Gentlemen daily more and more, by taking from them ſuch important Places, in a time when Nature alone ought to ſhelter them from the like Affronts, and give them an uninterrupted Tranquillity. We have ſtill more cauſe to complain of the Talk of our Allies, than of the Silence of our Enemies. Count *Oxenſtiern* ſpeaks to us of the Impoſſibility there is of marching the Troops out of *Livonia* into *Pruſſia*; of the Proteſtation Monſ. *Paks* has made, that he will oppoſe them with all the Forces of *Lithuania*; of the Confederacy which the Inhabitants of *Lithuania* have enter'd into with him, againſt the King of *Poland*, for the Defence of *Pruſſia*, for which the Kingdom is obliged to the Elector of *Brandenburg*; and of the frequent Conſpiracies againſt the King's Perſon, which are diſcover'd. Finally, it ſeems that he would prepare us for the Loſs of *Stetin*, in ſpite of the vigorous Reſiſtance of the Inhabitants. He adds to the Diſagreeableneſs of that Diſcourſe, the bad Condition of his own particular Affairs, caus'd by a Domeſtick Diſorder, and a Negligence which has made him ſpend without State and Magnificence, not only the Sum of 3000 Crowns a Month, which his Maſter gives him, but even a Remittance of ſix Months before-hand; inſomuch that he was not aſhamed to ſolicite us, with the greateſt Importunity poſſible, to cauſe ſome Money to be ſent to him, upon the payment of the Subſidies of the Month of *July* next, without which, he gave us to under-

underſtand, he ſhould be reduced to the laſt Extremity: But tho' he ſhould prove a Bankrupt, and run away, nobody being able to furniſh him with a Supply, we cannot give him any Aſſiſtance, having ourſelves ſcarce enough to ſubſiſt in the preſent extreme Scarcity of all ſorts of Proviſions and Commodities.

Monſieur *Beverning* ſet out two days ago for the *Hague*, with the Prince of *Orange*, and has left his Secretary here, to go and give him an Account of what we may have occaſion to notify to him.

Monſieur *Duker* juſt now put into our Hands the Copy hereto annex'd, of the laſt Letters of the Biſhop of *Paderborn*. Sir, you may therein perceive his Offers; and altho' the King can reap no great Advantage thereby at preſent, yet he does not forbear to explain himſelf, that he hop'd his Majeſty would vouchſafe, on that Conſideration, to gratify him with a Sum of 80000 Crowns. But the ſaid Monſieur *Duker* gave us to underſtand, at the ſame time, that he believ'd that Prelate will be contented with a Sum of 30 or 35000 Crowns, and that good Effects may be expected from the Sincerity wherewith he would ſerve his Majeſty, on all Occaſions that ſhall offer.

We annex'd alſo to this Letter, an Extract of what was told by the Prince of *Orange*, to the Aſſembly of the *States of Holland*, which was deliver'd to us by Count *Oxenſtiern*.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing of our Letter, Monſ. *Duker* alſo gave us the two Extracts here ſubjoin'd, on which, Sir, we will ſtay for your Anſwer, as well as on the firſt. In the mean time, we are, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*
Dated *December* 22. 1677.

Gentlemen,

'TIS only to add to the Memorial which I ſent you three Days ago, touching the Treaty of Commerce, that I write to you now, in order to tell you, that the King thinks fit, that you ſhould not inſiſt to have the Proviſo which was made in the 20th Article of the Treaty of 1662, concerning the Company of Whale-Fiſhers, re-eſtabliſhed in the 7th Article of the new Scheme. The time of that Privilege being expir'd, his Majeſty has no Deſign to renew it; ſo that 'tis no matter to mention it at preſent. This, Gentlemen, is all which will make up the Contents of this Letter; to which I have only to add, the Aſſurances of the Sincerity with which I am entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *December* 24. 1677.

SIR,

THE Letters we receiv'd this Poſt, from *Maeſtricht* and Liege, inform us, that thoſe of *France* were not yet arriv'd; ſo that we have no cauſe to wonder, that we had no Diſpatch from the

the King, or you. Thoſe which are come from *England*, afford Matter of much Joy to the Allies, who think to gain a great deal more by the meeting of the Parliament of the 25th of *January*, than they have loſt by the Taking of *St. Guillain*.

The Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, and Don *Pedro Ronquillo*, who, we inform'd you, would appear no more in the Aſſemblies, came the Day before yeſterday to that of the Ladies, which was held at the Houſe of one of us: And the firſt, or rather his Lady, entertain'd the Company yeſterday at her Houſe, where thoſe Gentlemen openly reckon'd up the Time that would be neceſſary for my Lord *Mountague* to return to *St. Germain*; that of the King's Deliberation, upon the Anſwer he is to give to that Miniſter, and his Return into *England*; by which time, they fix'd the Concluſion of the Peace, whereof they plainly diſcover'd, by their Briskneſs, that the Acceptance would be advantageous to them, or the Refuſal prejudicial to *France*; but we hope that God, and the Prudence with which the King knows how to manage his Affairs, will diſperſe all thoſe Clouds; there being, farthermore, no reaſon to believe, that the King of *England* will fail in all thoſe Promiſes, and his own Intereſt, which cannot permit him to break with *France*. Foraſmuch, Sir, as we only make inſignificant Ratiocinations, we will not trouble you farther with them; and ſhall not yet take the Liberty to write to the King, till we have ſome Buſineſs which may procure us the Honour of his Commands. We are, Sir, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors.
Dated *December* 28. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; I anſwer your Letters of the 14th and 17th inſtant, tho' the Affairs contain'd in both are not of very great Importance. The firſt only informs me of the Orders which the Ambaſſadors of *England* have receiv'd from the King their Maſter, to continue their Claim of being viſited firſt, as Mediators, by the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*. Foraſmuch as he is in the right, to maintain a Right which has been granted to his Mediation, and which ought to be yielded to him, as well by the Miniſters of the Emperor, as by all thoſe who are preſent in the Aſſembly: And whereas I was willing that you ſhould ſet an Example; 'tis requiſite that you ſhould encourage the Ambaſſadors of *England*, in a Claim ſo juſt, punctually to adhere to the Obſervance of the Orders, which they have from the King their Maſter.

I ſend you the Paſport which was deſir'd of you by the Mediators, for the Deputies of the Elector of *Cologn*, as Prince of *Liege*, and who in that Quality, cannot claim the ſame Rank which has been granted to Miniſters of other Electors.

I receiv'd, with your ſecond Letter, the Memorials which were thereto annex'd, from the Duke of *Mecklemburg*. Of all the Propoſals he has made me, the only one that I can allow, is to grant him my Protection and good Offices, when he ſhall have Occaſion thereof in the Treaty of Peace, and you may ſignify to him, that I have given you Orders accordingly.

I ſhould be very glad to know, what may be the Demands of the Biſhop of *Paderborn*, and what Engagement he is diſpoſed to contract with me. In the mean time, I have ſeen the Copy you ſent me, of the Treaty of the Biſhop of *Munſter*, and the Prince of *Newbourg*, touching the Succours which they give to *Spain*.

My Couſins, the Prince of *Conde* and the Duke *d'Enguien*, having repreſented to me, the Intereſts they have againſt *Spain*; the one, as a Creditor of that Crown, in Sums which have remain'd due to him ſince the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*; the other, claiming Poſſeſſion of the Revenues which have fallen to him in the Kingdom of *Naples*, by the Succeſſion of the late King of *Poland*; my Intention is, that in my Name, you uphold their juſt Pretenſions with your Diligence and good Offices; in which, by reaſon of the Affection I have for them, I am very deſirous that they may have Satisfaction. They will cauſe to be deliver'd to you, their Memorials as to thoſe Affairs, according to which you may carry yourſelves, in the Diſcuſſion of the Treaty, with the Miniſters of *Spain*. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at St. Germain en Laye, *the* 28*th of* December, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*
Dated *December* 28. 1677.

Gentlemen,

SInce the writing of the King's Letter, which I ſend you, I receiv'd your Diſpatch of the 21ſt inſtant. I only tell you of the Receipt of it, till I can inform you of the Account which I am to give thereof to his Majeſty.

I have nothing to add to what I have already ſent you Word, touching the Affairs of *England*. The King of *Great-Britain* ſtill aſſures Monſieur *de Barillon*, of the Sincerity of his Intentions, to continue conſtant in the Amity he has with his Majeſty; and repreſents to him, at the ſame time, the Perplexity he is under, how to diſpoſſeſs his Subjects of the Fear they entertain, of the entire Loſs of the *Netherlands*. The Remedy would be eaſy, if the Enemies of his Majeſty would be as juſt as he, upon the Conditions which may preſerve them by a Peace. My Lord *Mountague* is return'd from *London*, and is charged with Orders from his Maſter to his Majeſty.

Monſieur *de Mombas* has Concerns in *Holland*, which can only be decided in the making of Peace, by your Authority, and Interceſſion. His Majeſty, who has been ſatisfied with his Services, ſince his Return, thinks fit to honour him with his Protection; ſo that, Gentlemen, I aſſure myſelf, you will be very glad to employ your Offices in his Favour.

I ſend you a Pacquet, which the Prince directs to Monſieur *Deſcarrieres*, wherein he charges him with

with Memorials and Letters for you, touching his Affairs. I am, Gentlemen, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *December* 28. 1677.

SIRE,

WE have receiv'd the Diſpatch which your Majeſty did us the Honour to write to us, of the 8th inſtant; and according to your Orders, we have ſeen Count *Oxenſtiern*, whom we told, on the part of your Majeſty, that ſome Overtures, negotiated, in all Appearance, by the Prince of *Orange*, being come to your Knowledge, and having appear'd to you more advantageous for the Intereſts of your Enemies, than for thoſe of *Sweden*, or your own; you refus'd to hearken thereto, for thoſe two Reaſon. We afterwards inform'd him of the Orders which your Majeſty gave us, to aſſure him, that you will always explain yourſelf, upon all Occaſions, as you have done in this; and that you will not yield to any Conditions of Peace, without the Conſent and Participation of the King of *Sweden*. Count *Oxenſtiern* ſeem'd to us very well ſatisfied, to hear of the good Intentions your Majeſty continues to have for the King his Maſter, to whom he would impart every thing we had told him; and aſſur'd us before-hand, that he would receive, with a great deal of Joy, the Marks of Amity and Truſt, which your Majeſty had given him upon this Occaſion. He told us, afterwards, that he heard,

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by private Advices, that the Propoſals which had been made your Majeſty, were very diſadvantageous to the King his Maſter; becauſe they claim'd to keep *Bremen*, and the County of *Bahus*, at the Entrance into *Norway*. What we told that Miniſter, Sire, will ſerve very much to take away the Suſpicions which he has entertain'd of this pretended Negotiation; his Mind being very diſtruſtful, and ſuſceptible of bad Impreſſions.

We went the ſame Day to ſee Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, who is the only *Engliſh* Mediator here; Monſieur *Hyde* being gone to the *Hague*, to ſee the Prince of *Orange*. We told him, that your Majeſty could alter nothing of the Reſolution you had taken, to put an end, in the Month of *January* next, to the Contracts you made with the *States* the 17th of *May* laſt, as to the Liberty of Fiſhing; and we deſir'd him to inform the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* accordingly, that they might notifie it to their Maſters.

Sire, we will exactly go by the Memorial which your Majeſty has ſent us, and will keep to what you have promis'd the *States*, touching the Tariff of the Treaty of Commerce, on the Foot of 1664. Upon which we will explain ourſelves to Monſieur *Beverning*, at his Return from the *Hague*. We are, Sire, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *December* 28. 1677.

SIR,

THE two Letters which you did us the Honour to write to us, of 18th and 22d inſtant, and the Memorial annex'd thereto, explain to us the King's Intentions, as to what remains for us to do, for concluding the Treaty of Commerce with the *States-General* of the *United-Provinces*: But foraſmuch as Monſieur *Beverning* is not here, and the Clauſes which are to be alter'd or retrench'd in his Scheme, require rather a Conference with him, than the ſending of the Secretary, whom he has left here; we only told the latter, that when Monſieur *Beverning* is returned, we hope ſpeedily to put an end to that Affair with him, by retrenching only ſuch Clauſes as are either needleſs, or contrary to the Decrees of *France*, or to preceding Treaties. However, ſince it does not appear to us, that the Allies are willing to promote the general Peace, in the preſent Conjuncture, nor the *States-General* their particular Accommodation with *France*, we would only preſs that Treaty of Commerce for the future, as often as the King pleaſes to notify to us, that it will conduce to his Service to do it.

The Allies already enquire into what may take off the Mediation, in caſe of a Rupture of *England* with *France*. The Marquis *de los Balbaſes* even ask'd Count *Oxenſtiern*, whether the King of *Sweden* would make a Scruple to receive the Pope for

Mediator, for want of another? And the latter having given him to understand, that the King, his Master, could never consent thereto; the said Marquis propos'd the King of *Portugal*. All these Notions being reported to us by Count *Oxenstiern*, we certified to him, that we were so well persuaded, that the King of *England* would do nothing contrary to the Quality of Mediator, which he had so worthily discharged hitherto, that we would not enter into any Discussion, or Examination, who might fill up that Place. Sir, you may, by this Means, judge of the great Hopes the Allies ground upon what has pass'd hitherto in *England*. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated *December* 31. 1677.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd nothing by this Post. We deliver'd yesterday to Monsieur *Hulst*, Secretary of the Embassy of *Holland*, the Remarks we made upon the Memorial which you sent us, in order to communicate it afterwards to Monsieur *Beverning*, who return'd hither two days ago. We shall have the Honour to inform you, by the next Post, of what Answer he shall give, as to that Affair. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

FINIS.

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